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ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE LAND OF GWENT.

(*Read at the Annual Meeting at Newport.*)

THE Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association at Newport naturally suggests an inquiry into what may have been the early history of the district visited, what its natural features and its position as regards the counties which adjoin it, and what remains of the past there are to aid in elucidating its history.

Although constituted a county, and annexed to England by a statutory provision, the history, position, and place-names of Monmouthshire remind us that it was part of Wales, and that it is still more connected with the Principality of Wales than with England. Before an endeavour is made to give a sketch of the early history of the land of Gwent, it is necessary to make a few introductory remarks as to the earlier inhabitants of this island, and the means of information which have enabled those who have given their attention to the subject, to arrive at a conclusion who they were.

It is a matter of common agreement that the Celtic tribes whom Caesar found, on his arrival, in possession of Britain, were not the original inhabitants, but invaders who, at a then remote period, had either displaced, or incorporated with themselves, the original

inhabitants. The researches of the Bishop of St. David's¹ and of the learned Professor of Celtic² at Oxford have led to a belief that these invaders were of Celtic origin, and consisted of two groups of people with marked linguistic features, who at a considerable interval of time crossed over in succession to Britain ; the earlier known to us as the Gael, but to themselves as Gwyddel or Goidel, the ancestors of the people who speak Gaelic in Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Highlands of Scotland ; and the later group, the Bretons or Brythons, who came over from Gaul some centuries, probably, later, and gradually dispossessing the Gael or Gwyddel, drove them back to the northern and western parts of the island ; bringing about as a result, in course of time, the gradual absorption of the Goidelic dialect in the Brythonic or Welsh language, and the incorporation of both groups as one Brythonic people.

Many years have now passed since the Bishop of St. David's in an able paper traced the presence of the Gwyddel in various parts of Wales in the names of places. Recently, Professor Rhys, bringing the clear perception of a scholar to a critical knowledge of Gaelic, and comparing it with his native tongue, has been able to arrive at the conclusion that the authors of the Roman-British epitaphs in Latin, or in the Ogham character, on inscribed stones, estimated, in point of date, to range from the fifth to the seventh century, spoke a Goidelic language, which continued to exist in parts of Wales to the end of the seventh century. It will be unnecessary to mention the different localities in Wales where these inscribed stones occur. It may suffice to say that in South Wales they form two groups,—an eastern one, around a line drawn from Brecon to Neath, including what in the Roman period was part of the territory of the Silures ; and the other,

¹ *Vestiges of the Gael in Gwynedd* (Supplement to *Arch. Cambrensis*, 1850).

² *Celtic Britain* (Christian Knowledge Society), with which may be associated Professor Westwood's *Lapidarium Walliae*.

and more numerous one, in the district west of the river Towy.

The historic period of the eastern portion of the island commences with Cæsar's invasion ; but more than a century elapsed before the Romans crossed the estuary of the Severn, and made its western shore the chief station of the second Augustan legion. It is difficult to assign any definite limits to those portions of Wales which were occupied by the different tribes. It may suffice if we adopt Professor Rhys' general definition of their territory, and say that the Silures and Demetæ, both Goidelic tribes, were at the earliest known period the possessors of the country between Cardigan Bay and the lower course of the river Severn and its tributary, the Teme. Of the country so defined, the Silures occupied the eastern, and the Demetæ the western portion. The middle of Wales, to the north of these tribes, was occupied by the powerful state of the Ordovices, who probably belonged to the later Celtic settlers, or Brythons, and were a more civilised and less warlike people than their Goidelic neighbours.

The second Augustan legion first came to Britain with Aulus Plautius, and was under the command of Vespasian, afterwards Emperor, who in successive battles reduced to subjection the Belgæ and Dumnonii, two of the most powerful tribes, who occupied nearly the whole of the south-west part of the island from Wiltshire to the Land's End. On the recall of Plautius, he was succeeded, in A.D. 50, by Ostorius Scapula, who fortified the line of the rivers Avon and Severn, with a view to repress the incursions of the unsubdued Britons. After quelling a revolt of the Iceni, and subduing the Brigantes, who occupied the country north of the Mersey, from sea to sea, he turned his attention to the Silures, who, under the leadership of their chief, Caractacus, had carried on an unintermitting warfare with the Romans for nine years, and remained unconquered. As a last effort Caractacus removed the seat of war to the country of the Ordovices. The spot

where the decisive battle which resulted in his defeat, and after betrayal as a prisoner to the Romans, took place, has been, and must ever be, a matter of uncertainty, for the account which Tacitus gives does not afford sufficient information. Although defeated, the Silures remained unsubdued. Again and again, for a long series of years, they renewed the unequal conflict, "maintaining in their mountain fastnesses a warfare of forays and surprises which kept the Romans ever on the alert."

Ostorius died shortly after his victory. The generals sent as his successors do not appear to have gained any decisive advantage over the Silures until the arrival of Julius Frontinus, who, after an obstinate resistance, succeeded in subduing them a short time before the arrival in Britain of Julius Agricola, as Vespasian's third general, in A.D. 78.

The second legion formed part of the forces employed in the reduction of the Silures, and Caerleon became its headquarters. At Caerleon it remained, as numerous inscriptions testify,¹ until the latter part of the third century, although it was occupied from time to time elsewhere, in conjunction with other legions, in building the Roman walls and otherwise. The fact that the series of coins found in the neighbourhood commences with the reign of Claudio shows that the Romans did not obtain an earlier footing on the west of the Severn estuary.

After putting down all hostility to the Roman forces in North and South Wales, Agricola, to whom Britain was assigned as a province, directed his attention to the reconciliation of the conquered people to the Roman rule by inducing them to adopt the habits of a more civilised life, leading them to settle in towns, build houses, baths, and temples, and establishing a system of education for the sons of the British chiefs, who gradually became familiar with the Latin tongue, and

¹ See Mr. J. E. Lee's exhaustive Catalogue, "Isca Silurum", a copy of which is in the Museum at Caerleon.

adopted the *toga* as their dress. We may, therefore, assume that it was he who gave the first impulse to the building of the towns of Caerwent and Caerleon, and the making of the great lines of road which led from Caerleon, as lines of communication necessary to the Roman occupation of this part of the island. The remains of baths, votive altars, and other objects found at and in the neighbourhood of Caerwent and Caerleon, attest a high degree of civilisation, and a mode of living attained by no other town in Wales during the same period.

It is probable that when the Romans finally withdrew their legions from Britain, the seaboard west of the estuary enjoyed the advantages thus acquired for a considerable period ; for it was long free from Saxon inroads, although its situation suggests that it may have been always liable to continual invasions of marauders from the broad estuary of the Severn up the rivers Wye and Usk. The numerous entrenchments¹ which remain near the coast show the need that there was of intermediate places of refuge and defence for the inhabitants, with their flocks and herds, in cases of sudden invasion from any quarter by sea or land, before they fell back on their natural strongholds, the woods and mountains of the interior.

How it fared with the inhabitants of the Wentllwg and Caldicot levels when the Roman legions were finally withdrawn from the island, in the beginning of the fifth century, is a question which cannot be answered. It may well have happened that when the well-ordered military rule of the Romans ceased, the uncivilised inhabitants of the mountains may have overpowered the towns and low-lying country on the line of the Roman roads, and again thrown them into a state of comparative barbarism, or that their ruin was reserved for the Saxon or Danish invaders. All that we know for certain, from the excavations which

¹ Coxe's *Monmouthshire* contains numerous plans of British camps.

have been made, is that Caerleon and its neighbouring town shared the common fate of Roman towns in Britain, destruction by fire, on more than one occasion. Visible remains of the former grandeur of Caerleon existed when Gerald de Barri visited it on his journey at the end of the twelfth century, however coloured we may consider his description of its then state to have been. He deemed it worthy of remark that the people of the land of Gwent were more warlike, of more valour, and more accustomed to the use of the bow, than in any other part of Wales.

We may well omit, in this brief sketch, all account of the successive arrivals, on the eastern shore, of Angles, Jutes, and Saxons, and pass on to the gradual approach of the West Saxons to the river Severn.¹

Towards the close of the sixth century the West Saxons were in possession of the towns of Gloucester, Cirencester, and Bath. In the middle of the next century the Britons of the west, who occupied the south of the island and Cornwall, rose against Cenwealh, King of Wessex, and were defeated, in 658, at Bradford on the Avon. This occurrence led to successive incursions of the West Saxons into the country west of the estuary, for we learn that in 681 Centwine subdued the Northern Britons, or North Welsh,—a term which at this period included all who dwelt in North and South Wales, who were meditating rebellion, and were previously tributary to Wessex.

In the early part of the ninth century, Egbert, after subduing the Britons of Cornwall and the south, invaded the country of the Northern Britons, who are described as divided from their countrymen by an arm of the sea, and made them agree to pay tribute; but the Saxon supremacy there still continued to be little more than nominal. In 852, Burhed, King of Mercia, sought the aid of Ethelwulf, King of Wessex, to reduce the North Wealas to obedience. With their united

¹ It may save trouble in notes to state that the narrative is derived from Florence of Worcester, William of Malmesbury, and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

forces they passed through Mercia, invaded the adjoining Welsh country, and subjected it to tribute.

During the reign of Alfred several Welsh kings, including Brochmael and Fermael, Kings of Gwent, acknowledged Alfred as their lord, and sought his protection against their enemies. During the same reign, in 895, the Danes, after ravaging the neighbourhood of Chester until a scarcity of provisions arose, passed on to the country of the North Britons, and devastating the districts of Brecheiniog, Morganwg, Gwent, Buault, and Gwentllwg,¹ carried away with them, through the country north of the Humber (because they dared not to retrace their steps through Mercia), as much booty as they could to their vessels, which were anchored on the coast of Norfolk.

In the early part of the next century, 915, Danish pirates, who about nineteen years before had left England, and entered France by the river Seine, returned with their two leaders, Ohter and Hroald, and having sailed round Wessex and Cornwall, reached the mouth of the Severn, where they at once invaded the land of the North Britons, and destroyed all that they found on the banks of the river Wye. Crossing the river, they proceeded into the district of Ergyng, or Archenfield, which then formed part of Gwent Uchcoed, and taking prisoner Cyfeiliauc, the Bishop of Llandaff, they retraced their steps, with him and their plunder, to their vessels at the river's mouth. King Edward shortly afterwards obtained the release of the Bishop by payment of a ransom of £40.

Encouraged by their previous success, the Danes soon disembarked again, and made their way to the same district for the sake of plunder; but the men of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, with others from neighbouring towns, assembled, and suddenly attacked them. In the encounter Hroald, one of the Danish

¹ *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* merely states that the country of the North Britons was devastated far and wide. *The Welsh Chronicle* gives particulars of the country wasted.

leaders, and a large part of their followers, were killed. The rest, taking to flight, were followed, and compelled to give hostages that they would speedily leave the kingdom. In order to prevent their further ravages, King Edward had taken the precaution of stationing his army at suitable places from the coast to the mouth of the Avon. Returning by night to their vessels, the rest of the Danes sailed southward, and leaving their vessels drawn up on the shore, plundered first Watchet and then at Porlock. Many of them were killed at both places by the King's forces ; the rest took refuge on the Island of Flatholme, in the Bristol Channel, and driven thence by hunger, sailed to the coast of Pembrokeshire, and in the autumn crossed over to Ireland.

On the death of Ethelfleda, the Lady of Mercia, her husband, Edward, assumed the government of it, and three Kings of the North Wealas, and their subjects, formally acknowledged him as their lord. In 926, Athelstane, who had succeeded to the kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex, compelled the Kings of the North Britons to meet him at Hereford, and somewhat unwillingly submit to his rule. Previous Saxon kings had made the North Britons agree to pay tribute ; but Athelstane succeeded in exacting from them payment of £20 in gold, and £300 in silver, in addition to a render of a large number of cattle, and fixed the river Wye as the limit of their territory. This limit included the districts of Ergyng, the Saxon Arcenefeld, and Ewyas ; also part of Gwent Uchoed, which before the Norman conquest were both added to Herefordshire as the result of Saxon inroads. Ergyng included all the land between the rivers Monnow and the Wye in its course from Hom Lacy to Monmouth. Its northern limit was the Guormwy, or Wormbrook, to its source ; and thence by a rivulet which ran into the Wye, four miles below Hereford. Ewyas occupied the foot and the eastern slopes of the Black Mountain, to the confines of the counties of Monmouth and Brecon.

In May 973 Edgar was consecrated King at Bath, and soon afterwards sailed with his fleet to Chester,

where he received the homage of eight tributary kings, including three kings of Wales, who followed him in his triumphal procession up the river Dee. *The Welsh Chronicle* places the scene of Edgar's triumph at Caerleon on Usk, the other *civitas legionum*; but the Anglo-Saxon and other chronicles concur in stating that his fleet was anchored in the Dee.

In the year 1037, Griffith ap Llywelyn ap Seisyllt, whose name is conspicuous in the annals of Wales on account of his continual and often successful encounters with the Saxons, succeeded to the throne of Gwynedd. *The Welsh Chronicle* alone mentions that soon after his accession he fought his first battle at Rhyd y Groes, near Upton on Severn, and was victorious. In the same year Griffith dispossessed Howel ap Edwyn of his territory, and assumed the government of South Wales. In 1041 Howel died. Two years later, Griffith and Rhys ap Rhydderch, on the strength of their father having once had the rule of South Wales, rebelled. War ensued between them and Griffith ap Llywelyn for two or three years. Seventy of the family of Griffith ap Llywelyn were treacherously killed. In retaliation he devastated the Vale of Towy and Dyfed; and in 1047 *The Welsh Chronicle* has the short and significant entry that all South Wales lay waste.

Before passing on to after events we may notice a passage in *The Saxons in England*, of Mr. Kemble,¹ which throws much light on the condition of the neighbouring country on the left bank of the Wye. King Edwy in 956 granted Dyddenham² to Bath Abbey. His charter³ mentions Wye's mouth and Twyfyrd as some

¹ Vol. i, p. 320, ed. W. de Gray Birch.

² In 1060, Alwin, Abbot of Bath, granted it, at certain rents, to Stigand, Archbishop, for his life. In *Domesday Book* (Gloucestershire) it is stated to be in the hundred of Twyferd, and then in the tenure of William de Ow.

³ *Codex Dipl.*, cccclii. The boundaries are—Dyddanham, Wægenmuðan, Iwes heafdan, Stanræwe, Hwitan heal, Iwdene, Bradanmor, Twyfyrd, Ætegepul, Sæfern. I owe this note to the kindness of Mr. Birch, whose *Cartularium Saxonum*, when completed, will be most valuable.

of the boundaries of the land granted, and thus leads to its identification with Tidenham, situate on the tongue of land between the Severn and the Wye, just before the latter river enters the Severn.

In Dyddenham there were thirty hydes; nine inland, or demesne, and twenty-one let. In Stræt, which may be readily identified with Streat in the same neighbourhood, on the Roman trackway to Cirencester, were twelve hydes and twenty-seven yards of gafolland; and on the Severn, thirty cytweras, or weirs for catching fish. In Bishopstun (which possibly may be Bish-ton) were three hydes, and fifteen cytweras on the Wye. In Llancawit, which differs but little from the present place-name, were three hydes. Several other places are mentioned which cannot be readily identified. "Throughout that land each yard-land pays twelve pence and four alms-pence. At every weir within the thirty hydes, every second fish belongs to the landlord, besides any uncommon fish worth having,—sturgeon, or porpoise, or herring, or sea-fish; and no one may sell any fish for money, when the lord is on the land, until he has had notice of the same." In Dyddenham the services were very heavy, and such as a recently conquered people in a state of serfdom would alone submit to.

In August 1049 pirates from the Irish coast sailed in thirty-six vessels along the Severn estuary, and entered the river Usk.¹ Griffith, King of South Wales, assisted them in plundering the neighbourhood. They then, with their united forces, crossed over the Wye and burnt Tidenham,² destroying all that they found there. Aldred, Bishop of Worcester, quickly assembled a few of the men of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, and went to meet the invaders; but the Welsh, who formed part of the Bishop's force, and had promised to be true to him, secretly sent messages to the South

¹ "In loco qui dicitur Wylesc Eaxan." (*Flor. Wig.*, i, p. 203.)

² Dymedham (*Flor. Wig.*) may, from its position, be assumed to be the Saxon Dyddenham.

Wales King urging a speedy attack of the English. Griffith, profiting by the intelligence, advanced with the Irish pirates at break of day; surprised the English force, still few in number, and killed many of them; the remainder took to flight. We may infer, from the mention of Welshmen as part of Aldred's force, that the invaders were on the left bank of the Wye, and that the encounter took place on the confines of the counties of Gloucester and Hereford, near Archenfield, which was then chiefly inhabited by the Welsh, owing little more than a nominal allegiance to England.

Three years later, Griffith, the North Wales King, ravaged a large part of Herefordshire as far as Leominster. After a successful encounter with the Norman settlers there he returned with his booty. In 1054 Griffith ap Rhydderch was slain by the North Wales King, who then became sole ruler in North and South Wales. In the following year, Earl Alfgar, the son of Leofric, was banished by the King and his council. Alfgar crossed over to Ireland, and soon returning with eighteen pirate ships which he purchased there, sought out the Welsh King, and induced him to act as his ally. Griffith immediately summoned a large army from the whole of Wales, and arranged that Alfgar should join him, with his forces, at a place suitable for ravages on the English border. Entering the Severn, Alfgar united his forces with those of his Welsh ally in the land of Gwent. Crossing the Wye, they passed through Archenfield, laying waste on their way all the lands which belonged to the King.¹ On their arrival within two miles of the city of Hereford, Earl Ralph, who had the command of the English force, encountered them, and sustained an ignominious defeat. The victors pursued their way into the city, sacked it, and burnt the Cathedral. This done, they retired into Wales with their prisoners and much booty.

¹ "Rex Grifin et Blein vastaverunt hanc terram T. R. E. et ideo nescitur qualis eo tempore fuerit." (*Domesday B.*)

On receiving the intelligence the King summoned a large army at Gloucester, and gave the command of it to Earl Harold, who quickly followed the steps of Griffith and Alfgar through Archenfield, and encamped at Stradel, in the Valley of the Dore. His opponents learning with whom they had to deal, did not dare to come to an encounter, and retired into South Wales. Harold then dismissed the greater part of his army, and retired to Hereford. Soon afterwards, overtures for peace were made to Harold by Griffith and Alfgar, and the terms were arranged at a place which has generally been considered to be Billingsley in Shropshire, but more probably may have been Willersley,¹ on the left bank of the Wye. After the peace, the fleet of Earl Alfgar, which had been sent to Caerleon,² there awaited the pay which he had promised.

We may pass over the subsequent warfare with Griffith, and Harold's victories in North Wales, with the mention that in the autumn of 1064 Griffith was killed by his own subjects, and his head sent to Earl Harold for the King. It is stated that the King gave the whole of Griffith's Welsh territory to his half-brothers, Bleddyn and Rhiwallon, on their taking the oath of fealty. Their rule, however, does not appear to have extended to Morganwg and Gwent; for at the time of the Norman conquest, Cadwgan ap Meurig reigned in Glamorganshire; Caradoc ap Griffith, the South Wales King, in Ystradyw, Gwent Uchoed, and Gwentllwg; and Rhydderch, his son, in Ewyas and Gwent Iscoed, as subjects of the crown of England.³

Harold's victories in North Wales freed him from any adversary in Wales. Archenfield was in a state of subjection, although its inhabitants were for the most part Welsh, who yielded an unwilling obedience, and

¹ "Willaneslege" of *Domesday* is sufficiently like "Biligesleaga", the place mentioned in Florence of Worcester, to lead to the belief that Willersley was selected as a place near at hand.

² "Legeceastrum" can in this case be no other than Caerleon.

³ *Liber Landavensis*, p. 550.

retained their own laws and customs. He was able, therefore, to cross over the Wye, and invade the land of Gwent without any obstacle. The territory which he acquired there was probably limited, and held by a precarious tenure, for the orders which he had given in July 1065, for the erection of a large building at Porth-skewet, as a hunting-box for King Edward, were in the latter part of August set at nought by Caradoc ap Griffith, who, with all whom he could muster, came there, killed nearly all the workmen engaged in the building, and carried away the provisions which had been provided for the King's reception. Harold was too fully occupied by military matters in the North to punish this outrage. On the King's death, in January following, Harold was elected King. Before autumn was over, the battle of Hastings was fought, and his short reign ended.

How long afterwards Caradoc ap Griffith was allowed to have the rule in Gwent is uncertain. We learn from *The Welsh Chronicle* that in 1068 there was a battle between Bleddyn and Rhiwallon ap Cynfyn and the sons of Griffith, in which the latter fell. Rhiwallon also was slain; and then Bleddyn held Gwynedd and Powys, and Meredith ap Owen ap Edwin, South Wales; not without opposition on the part of Caradoc, who appears two years later to have allied himself with the Normans, and fought a battle with Meredith ap Owen on the banks of the river Rhymney, in which Meredith was slain. In 1073 Bleddyn ap Cynfyn was killed by Rhys ap Owen, and then he and Rhydderch ap Caradog are said to have been the rulers of South Wales.

It is unnecessary to pursue further the account of these interminable contests for the succession in South Wales. It sufficiently appears that the Normans were continually advancing, and were at the time of the *Domesday Survey*, in 1085, in possession of the greater part, if not the whole, of Gwent.

The limits of this paper will not permit an examination in detail of the *Domesday* account of Norman ter-

ritory on the west of the Wye, under the head of Gloucestershire ; but it may suffice to note a few particulars. The fact that a small part of the land had been portioned out among the Conqueror's followers, that the rest was still in the occupation of its previous possessors (under the care of his reeves), and the great want of names of places, suggest that the occupation of the country by Saxon and Norman was a very recent one.

Soon after the Conquest, William Fitz Osborne, Earl of Hereford, one of the Conqueror's most trusty followers, built the Castle of Estrighoiel or Chepstow. On his death, in 1070, his son Roger succeeded to the earldom and the English territory of his father. By his rebellion, eight years later, Roger forfeited all his possessions. At the time of the *Survey* the Castle was in the King's hands, and valued at £12. The rent of Caerleon and its land, with seven fisheries in the rivers Wye and Usk, yielded a return of £7 10s. In Wales were three hardwicks, Llanwern, Porthskewet, and Dinam, cultivated by the serfs attached to them. Fifty-four vills or townships were under the charge of the King's reeves. The inhabitants of these vills held their land subject to a small render in honey, swine, and cows, and a sum of money for hawks. Eight vills rendered nothing, and were permitted by Earl William, with the King's leave, to hold under the customs which prevailed there in the time of King Griffith. Under the same reeves were four vills which had been laid waste by Caradog ap Griffith. All these vills were farmed by Durand, the Sheriff of Gloucestershire, to William de Ow, the owner of Tidenham and other lands in that county, who had, in addition, three fisheries and land on the west of the Wye. In Caerwent (Carven), Durand, the Sheriff, held Caldecote, with the half villeins and serfs attached to it. Others who held land, and had probably also taken an active part in the acquisition of the country, were Roger de Laci, Roger de Berkeley, Turstin, son of Rolf, some of whose land

lay between the Wye and Usk, and other parts west of the latter river ; and Alfred the Spaniard. William de Scohies had eight carucates of land in the castlery of Caerleon, which he sublet to Turstin. Part of this land was held by Welshmen living under Welsh law, and the whole of it is stated to have been waste in the time of King Edward.

The Castle of Monmouth, then a part of the county of Hereford, was also built in the lifetime of Earl William. It was in the custody of William Fitz Baderon. Welshmen occupied there twenty-four carucates of land, and rendered thirty-three sextaries of honey, and a small rent in money ; and the military followers of William Fitz Baderon occupied seven carucates.

William Fitz Osborne continued the line of defence against the Welsh frontier by fortifying the district of Ewias. The castlery of Ewias, afterwards known as Ewias Lacy, was granted to Walter de Lacy ; and the Castle of Ewias and its lands, the larger part of which was held by military tenants, and the rest by Welshmen (afterwards called, by way of distinction, Ewias Harold), to Alfred of Marlborough. The Castle of Clifford, with its castlery, occupying a wide extent of land on the right bank of the Wye, to the Dulas brook, completed his line of defence, and was in the tenure of Ralph de Todeni, among whose military tenants were Gilbert, the Sheriff of Herefordshire, and Roger de Lacy.

As the Normans advanced onwards, and obtained a firmer hold of the country, a second line of fortifications arose along the Valley of the Usk. Hamelin de Baladun, another of those who came over with the Conqueror, acquired the lordship of Overwent, and built the Castle of Abergavenny and the Priory there. At a somewhat later period, Walter de Clare, the founder of Tintern Abbey, acquired, under a general licence from the Crown to get what he could in Wales, all Netherwent. After various changes, Milo Fitz Walter, by his marriage with the daughter of Bernard New-

march, united the lordship of Brecknock to Overwent, while Netherwent continued in the Clare family. The three Castles of Whitecastle, Skenfrith, and Grosmont, erected about this period, and ever after, until their ruin, held together under the same custody, connected Abergavenny with the line of the Monnow; while on the sea-coast the Castle of Caldicot and the older Castle of Caerleon formed a line of communication between Chepstow and Newport on the mouth of the Usk. As time went on, numerous smaller castles, of which we now see the ruins, arose in the neighbourhood as a protection to their possessors alike against the invasions of the Welsh and the oppression of neighbouring lords marchers.

The Norman occupation of all Went forms a fitting conclusion to a paper which has already reached its full limit. The after history of the county of Monmouth, its castles and monastic houses, may readily be learned in the well illustrated history of Coxe, and in the numerous publications of the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association, which for completeness and profuseness of illustration may be well compared with those of any other kindred Society.

R. W. B.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE
HISTORY AND DESCENT OF THE LORDSHIP
MARCHER OR COUNTY OF WENTLLWCH,

AS IT WAS CALLED IN EARLY TIMES, AND WHICH IS IN
THE PRESENT DAY DESIGNATED AS THE MODERN
HUNDRED OF WENTLLWCH OR WENTLOOG.¹

THE county of Monmouth was formed by the grouping together, with several smaller manors, the six great lordships of Abergavenny, Monmouth, Strigul or Chepstow, Usk, Caerleon, and Wentllwch, which is on the west of the river Usk, and of this I propose to treat. It was one of the lordships marchers which were taken by the statute 17th Henry VIII, in 1535, to form the county of Monmouth when it became a portion of the realm of England under the English crown.

It may be as well to state here that these lordships marchers were small, independent sovereignties under the especial government of their own lords, and each independent of the other, unless they might belong to the same lord ; and they owed no allegiance to the English king, but only to their own lords ; but inasmuch as those lords were subject to the king of England, they and their subjects were under some control of the English crown. The king's writs, however, did not run in them ; and all malefactors against the king's laws could find a refuge from them, and thus disregard his power ; and this state of things being found so inconvenient and mischievous, made Henry VIII anxious to seize and get them into his power ; and this he accomplished by declaring these lords who were his subjects guilty of high treason, by which their possessions became forfeited to the crown ; and that was especially the case with the Duke of Buckingham, who was Lord Marcher of Wentllwch, among his vast possessions

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting at Newport.

which on his death became forfeited to the crown ; and the King was enabled, by an Act of his own Parliament, to form them into a county, and add them to his own dominion, and they thus became part of the realm of England in 1535. We have, however, only to deal with the lordship of Wentllwch and its history.

The lords marchers, in the management and government of their lordships, copied as much as possible the usages of the great realm of England, and they had their castles or palaces, and their chanceries and chancellors, with the courts and great sessions, and chancery and privy seals, judges and officers ; and under their great chancery seals they issued writs, and the lords granted charters just after the manner of the kings. The charter creating and incorporating the borough of Newport, which has recently been recovered and restored, is a most excellent example. The revenues were most carefully collected by the receiver and proper officers, and the accounts of the receipts and expenditure most accurately kept, and rendered every year on parchment rolls, and deposited in the lord's chancery or other office ; and there are in the Public Record Office many of these rolls. When Henry VIII held the lordship in right of his possession of it by reason of the death and forfeiture of the estates of the Duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded by the King's order, in these rolls he is styled "King of England and Dominus de Wenlouk." These rolls afford much curious information, but they are difficult to read.

That part of the country now occupied by the county of Monmouth was in very ancient times called Gwent, probably from the name of the first tribe who settled there. It was divided into a Gwent Ucha, or Upper Gwent, occupying the northern part ; and Gwent Isa, Lower or Netherwent, lying along the banks of the Severn sea ; and Gwent llwch, usually written Wentllwch. Most, if not all, early Welsh names are descriptive of the locality, or have reference to some tribe or individual. This name Gwentllwch is compounded

of Gwent and Llwech ; which latter word appears to be the same as the Scotch Loch and Irish Lough, meaning an inlet of the sea, a lake or large collection of water,—a name quite appropriate and descriptive of the fens or moors, as we here call them, before they were embanked or drained, when they were overflowed every spring or very high tide, and must at other times have presented the appearance of a number of small lakes or inlets of the sea. These embankments or sea-walls were certainly the work of the Romans during their occupation, as the finding one of their stones at Goldcliff has proved.

Wentllwch, in its original acceptation, appears to have included the whole territory between the lordship of Abergavenny on the north, the Severn sea on the south, and was bounded by the river Usk on the east, and the Rumney on the west ; and a portion of this territory, together with the great lordship of Glamorgan, formed the dominions of Jestyn ap Gwrgan before they were wrested from him by the invasion of the Normans under Robert Fitzhamon in 1090.

Of the early history of this tract we know little but what may be gathered from the genealogical labours of the “*arwydd feirdd*”, or heraldic bards, and the legends of saints ; and although these sources of intelligence may be scanty, and not to be implicitly relied upon, they are entitled to considerable attention, and, moreover, are the only documents to be found that treat of this part of the country. From these sources we collect that in the first half of the fifth century (calculating from the number of descents to some of his successors whose eras are better established), Wentllwch acknowledged for its lord a chieftain named Cadell, called Deyrnllwch or Teyrn Llwch (king of the lake or fen). Cadell was the father of Tegid, who was succeeded by his son Glywys, who by some means extended his possessions, and the whole territory was called Glewiseg, or the county of Glywys. This chieftain had several sons, among whom his dominions were divided, and

Wentllwch fell to the share of his eldest son, Gwynllyw Filwr (Gwynllyw the Warrior). Having determined to take a wife, he sent an embassy to a neighbouring chieftain named Brychan, Prince of Brycheiniog, to demand the hand of his daughter Gwladys. The father refused, treating the ambassador with indignity. The lord of Wentllwch put himself at the head of a band of his retainers, and succeeded in carrying off the lady by force, was pursued by Brychan, and was in danger of losing his prize; but with the assistance of Arthur defeated Brychan, and returned to his own residence at a place called Allt Gwynllyw (that is Gwynllyw's Hill), now St. Woollos.

There Gwynllyw and Gwladys dwelt, and a numerous issue was the result of this marriage. The eldest of them was the celebrated St. Cadoc or Cattwg. They all embraced a religious life, and are enrolled among the saints. St. Gwynllyw (whose name has been Latinised into Gundlieus, and thence corrupted, in common parlance, into St. Wollos or St. Woolos) has been said to have given his name to the district; but it is not found so written, and the origin of the name Gwentllwch or Wentllwch is more probable, intelligible, and satisfactory.

In *The Lives of the Cambro-British Saints*, copied and translated from MSS. in the British Museum by the Rev. W. J. Rees of Cascob, and published under the auspices of the Welsh MSS. Society in 1853, we have the life and history of St. Gwynllyw. These MSS. are supposed to have been written in the twelfth century. We are told that in consequence of a dream he followed a certain white ox which conducted him up to the hill, and he then said, "Sea-coasts, with fields and a wood, and high groves are seen far and wide. There is no prospect in the world such as is in the space where I am now to dwell. A faithful place, and inhabiting it I shall therefore be more happy." Having said these words, by the divine appointment and the concession of Dubricius, Bishop of Llandaff, he there remained

and built a habitation, and consequently marked out a burial-place, in the middle whereof he built a church with boards and rods, which he diligently visited with frequent prayers. "Signavit cimiterium, et in medio tabulis et virgis fundavit templum, quod visitabat assidue cum frequentationibus orationum."

St. Gwynllyw has been said to have given the name to this part of the country, which has sometimes been called Gwynllwg, but which has no meaning ; and I think that there can be very little doubt that Gwentllwch, or Wentllwch as it is usually written, is the proper name for the region, as has been before explained.

As St. Gwynllyw established his oratory or church on the hill, the site of his dwelling can, I think, be identified. It will be seen that his habitation and his oratory, or *templum*, as it is called, were not the same ; for after he had dwelt there for some years he marked out a cemetery or burial-ground, in the *middle* of which he erected his *templum* or oratory, having been the chieftain of the district for some years before he built it.

In a field within a short distance of the church, formerly very well known, there was, not long ago, a moated mound, on the summit of which was planted a group or clump of fir-trees, and it was called "The Fir-Tree Field". There are several of these mounds about the country. They consist of a circular, conical mound having a flat, table-top, usually about 50 ft. in diameter, and surrounded by a deep foss or moat. The summits are always flat. This mound is now in the grounds of Springfield, laid out by the late Mr. Gething, who built the house. It is, however, no longer a mound, but is buried up to the top with the spoil brought up to the surface by the shafts during the excavation of the tunnel of the Great Western Railway, which runs underneath. Its site, however, is still marked ; for in order to preserve it, as the fir-trees were all cut away, I suggested to Mr. Gething, when he was laying out his grounds, to collect together the

large masses of rock brought up out of the tunnel, and place them in the form of a cairn on the summit of the mound where the fir-trees had stood. This he did, and the spot and the size of the flat summit of the mound are still preserved by the heap of large stones. The diameter of the top was exactly 50 ft. It used to be sometimes called "the Grave of St. Wollos"; but that was incorrect, as these mounds were not burial-places, but the dwellings or strongholds of the chieftains or rulers of the district, and in subsequent times were converted into castles by the erection of stone edifices on their summits in lieu of the timber or wattled structures which originally crowned them. The mounds were steep, and could only be approached by a timber bridge across the deep moat and a winding path. There are several in the neighbourhood, as at Caerleon, Llangstone, Castleton, Cardiff, on the hill above Ruperra, Gelligaer, and Llanhilleth: and they are to be found all over England, as at Windsor, Oxford, Tunbridge, Canterbury, Lincoln, in Cornwall, and North Wales.

This mound I believe to have been the dwelling of Gwynllyw, the Prince and chief of this district, where he founded his *templum* or church in close proximity to it; and I fully believe that that mysterious portion of St. Wollos Church generally called St. Mary's is the church, or rather the site of the *templum* first erected by our saint, and enlarged and altered at various subsequent periods (but always spared) by adding on the east end, like the church of St. Joseph of Arimathea at Glastonbury, when the great Abbey was added on to the east end of it. But that becomes part of the history of the church.

In their old age, Gwynllyw and his wife Gwladys renounced the world, and became recluses or hermits, leading very austere lives. He was established on the hill near his oratory; and she is recorded to have retired to the banks of the Ebbw river, a short distance off, to have practised great austerities, and always

bathing in the coldest water. The precise spot to which she retired has never been ascertained; but though long lost, I am disposed to think can be now satisfactorily identified.

On the banks of the river, just above Ebbw Bridge, is a cliff, on the top of which is a small spot of ground, adjoining Tredegar Park walls, of less than half an acre, on which there is a very old cottage. This small, detached spot of ground has always belonged to the church of St. Woollos, and was part of the glebe land; and when the glebe lands were sold, a few years ago, it was purchased by Lord Tredegar. The history of it could never be made out. Nothing was known of it; but some have heard the term chapel applied to it. A short distance off, in the Park, there issued from the bank a remarkably beautiful spring of very cold water, over which a bath-house had been erected in 1719, and it always used to be called "The Lady's Well"; but why or in honour of whom it was so called was not known. Gwladys is recorded to have had near her dwelling a remarkably cold spring of water, where she constantly bathed. I cannot help thinking that this small, mysterious spot of holy ground belonging to the church, with its cold bath spring in its immediate vicinity, must have been the unknown spot to which Gwladys retired, and that her name may have been perpetuated by the name of the bath, and that "The Lady's Well" may have been only a corruption, by persons ignorant of the history, of Gwladys' Well, and that this spot may fairly be considered the spot to which she retired on her first becoming a recluse; that the small piece of ground was hallowed, and became part of the possession of the church; and as the word chapel seems to have clung to it, that would indicate that at one time it may have been an oratory or place of prayer.

Of the local history of Wentllwch under the dominion of the Princes of Glamorgan, down to the latter part of the tenth century, nothing is known. About the year 967, in the time of Morgan Hen, it appears

that after a long contest Owen ap Howel Dda obtained possession of Caerleon, Eddlogan, and Machen, with the consent of the Saxon King Edgar, leaving the remainder of the district, which is now called the Lordship of Wentllwch, in the possession of Morgan. This transaction is so obscurely alluded to in the Welsh chronicles that it seems impossible, at this time of day, to understand what claim Owen could have had to these possessions. From Morgan Hen, the lordship of Wentllwch descended to his successors, and was part of the territory conquered by Fitz Hamon from the last Welsh Prince, Jestyn ap Gwrgan, about the year 1090 or 1092, and was by him parcelled out among his followers, reserving the superiority to himself, as he did the other parts of the Principality. It is remarkable that none of the published accounts of the conquest of Glamorgan take any notice of Wentllwch, yet its subsequent descent, and that of some of the mesne manors, leaves no doubt that it formed part of Fitz Hamon's dominions.

The descent of the lordship after this conquest opens a new era, and will follow in a consecutive history.

THE DESCENT OF THE LORDSHIP OF WENTLLWCH,
OR NEWPORT, IN THE MARCHES OF WALES.

The lordship of Wentllwch was a lordship marcher, or small independent sovereignty, subject to the government of its lord, whose annual accounts of the rents, issues, and profits of certain manors within the lordship, being members thereof, and which, belonging to the lord, and forming his revenue, were made up every year at Michaelmas by the chief steward or receiver of the lordship, in the form of rolls of parchment written in Latin, as was the custom of the time; and excepting the names of persons or places, not a Welsh word is found therein, and most of the chief officers have English names. Many of these rolls, which are the Exchequer Rolls, and at the Record Office called Minis-

ters' Accounts, now exist. The earliest known roll is that for 1435, and is in the possession of Dr. Nichol Carne of St. Donat's Castle ; and the first of my collection is a correct English translation of it made by the late Joseph Burtt, Esq., of the Public Record Office.

The original parchment rolls for the years 1447 and 1493 are among the Tredegar muniments, having been presented many years ago by the late Rev. John M. Traherne. In the Public Record Office are many others to be found under the head of "Buckingham's Lands" (Ministers' Accounts). The earliest became the property of the crown when the estates of the Duke of Buckingham were seized, upon his attainder, by Henry VIII. The later are those which were returned when the King was lord of Wentllwch, as he is styled in the Rolls. Of some of the principal of these I have had copies made, which form my collection, and they throw much light on the history and condition of the lordship and its inhabitants at the time they were made, and it is curious to observe for how long a period the same names and rents continue unchanged. It is hardly probable that so many tenants and their rents should always have remained the same, and lived so long ; and it may possibly arise from the circumstance that one account was in a great measure copied from another, and as long as the same rent was paid, no alteration was made in the account as to the name of the tenant.

THE DESCENT OF THE LORDSHIP OF WENTLLWCH.

A.D. 1090.—Robert Fitz Hamon, lord of Gloucester, conqueror of Glamorgan and Wentllwch.

1107.—Mabel, d. and h., mar. in 1109 Robert, nat. son of King Henry I, who then created him Earl of Gloucester. He is frequently called Robert Consul. His mother was Nest, d. of Rhys ap Tewdwr Mawr.

1147.—William Earl of Gloucester, s. and h., left at his death, in 1183, three daughters, coheirs (Robert, s.

died young, b. at Keynsham), viz., Mabel, whose issue failed before 1213. She married Almeric Devereux, who, on the death of Isabel, in 1217, became Earl of Gloucester, and died childless in 1226. Amicia, mar. Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, who died in 1206. She was mother of Gilbert de Clare, afterwards Earl of Gloucester. Isabel.

1183.—Isabel, third d. and coh., in ward to the King, Henry II, who gave her in marriage to his second son, John Earl of Mortaigne, but retained the earldom. King Richard I in 1190 gave the earldom to his brother John, who succeeded to the throne in 1199, and was soon after divorced from his wife, Isabel, but retained her estates until 1214, when he gave them, with her in marriage, to Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, who died in 1216. Isabel Countess of Gloucester died in 1217.

1217.—Gilbert de Clare, son of Amicia and Richard de Clare, nephew and heir, Earl of Gloucester, and on his father's death, of Hertford. He married Isabella, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and by her acquired Machen, which from that time has been united with Wentllwch.

1229.—Richard de Clare, s. and h., Earl of Gloucester and Hertford.

1262.—Gilbert de Clare, s. and h., Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, whose earldom and estates, on his marriage with Joan of Acre, d. of Edward I, were settled on them jointly and their issue. He was surnamed Gilbert the Red, and had a brother, Bogo de Clare, in holy orders.

1295.—Joan of Acre, his widow, Countess of Gloucester and Hertford, mar. in 1297 Ralph de Monthermer, who, with her, did homage for the earldom, and retained it during her life.

1305.—Gilbert de Clare, s. and h. of Gilbert de Clare and Joan of Acre, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford. He died in 1314, leaving three sisters coheirs, viz., Eleanor, wife of Hugh le Despenser, who had Glamorgan; Mar-

garet, wife of Hugh de Audley, who had Wentllwch ; Elizabeth, wife of John de Burgh, who had the honor of Clare on the death of Gilbert.

1314.—King Edward II retained the estates until partition in 1318.

1318.—Margaret de Clare, wife of Hugh de Audeley, received Wentllwch on partition ; and on this separation of Wentllwch from the lordship of Glamorgan, the name of the former lordship was changed to that of Newport. In 1320, however, Le Despenser and his wife obtained it, and it was not restored until the death of Le Despenser in 1326. Hugh de Audeley¹ was created Earl of Gloucester in 1337, and died in 1347. Margaret Countess of Gloucester died in 1342.

1342.—Margaret de Audeley, d. and h., wife of Ralph Lord Stafford, died in 1349.

1349.—Ralph Lord Stafford, her husband, created Earl of Stafford in 1351, held her estates for his life.

1372.—Hugh Stafford, second Earl, their son and heir. This Hugh Earl of Stafford and lord of Tonebrugge and Wentllwch, grants first charter of incorporation to burgesses of Newport, dated 13 April 1385. Mayor and bailiff.

1386.—Thomas Stafford, third Earl, s. and h.

1392.—William Stafford, fourth Earl, brother and h.

1395.—Edmund Stafford, fifth Earl, brother and h.

In 1402 Owen Glyndower invaded and ravaged Wentllwch, burning down the castle and town, and all the churches and houses in the moors, so that on an inquisition being held, the value of Wentllwch was returned as *nil*. It is most probable, judging from the architecture, that during the reign of Humphry Stafford the church of St. Woolos was repaired and enlarged, and the churches of St. Bride and Peterstone, in the moors, newly built, as the architecture of all three is of that period, and there is a strong resemblance in the windows of all three.

¹ During the minority or attainer of the younger Despenser, Hugh d'Audeley may have held Cardiff.

1403.—Humphrey Stafford, sixth Earl, s. and h., created Duke of Buckingham in 1444, a minor, two years old ; of age, 1424. In 1427 he granted to the Mayor and burgesses a charter of *inspeximus* and confirmation of previous charter of 1385, in which the original charter is confirmed.

1460.—Henry Stafford, second Duke, grandson and h., in ward to the King. Beheaded, 1483, and his estates forfeited to the crown.

1483.—Richard III retained the forfeited estates.

1485.—Henry VII, soon after his accession, reversed the Duke's attainder, and granted the lordship of Wentllwch and other estates to his widow, Katherine, then wife of Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford, for her life, with remainder to their son Edward as third Duke of Buckingham. Katherine, Duchess of Buckingham and Bedford, survived her second husband, Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford, who died in 1495, and married, thirdly, Sir Richard Wingfield of Kimbolton, co. Hunts., who survived her, and married again, and was created K.G. by Henry VIII. She died before 1498, as her son, the Duke, was then the lord of Newport.

Edward Stafford, third Duke of Buckingham, beheaded 17 May 1521, and his estates forfeited to the crown. On this second forfeiture of the estates, all the documents, records, and papers relating to the lordship were taken up to London, and are now in the Record Office, where they may be consulted, and are known as papers relating to "Buckingham's Lands."

1521.—Henry VIII held the lordship till the end of his reign in 1547. In 1535, the twenty-seventh of his reign, this lordship, in conjunction with many others, was incorporated in the new county of Monmouth, then formed by Act of Parliament ; at which time the jurisdiction and authority of the lords marchers were abolished, all the manorial rights being reserved.

1547.—Edward VI succeeded to the lordship of Wentllwch, and that year granted the lordship, together with the lordship of Glamorgan, to William Her-

bert, who in 1548 was installed K.G., and in 1551 was elevated to the peerage as Baron Herbert of Cardiff, and Earl of Pembroke.

William, first Earl of Pembroke.

1570.—Henry, second Earl, K.G., s. and h.

1600.—William, third Earl, K.G., s. and h., *ob. s. p.*

1630.—Philip, fourth Earl of Pembroke, also Baron Herbert of Shurland and Earl of Montgomery, brother and h. of the last William.

1655.—Philip, fifth Earl of Pembroke, and second of Montgomery, s. and h.

1669.—William, sixth Earl of Pembroke and third of Montgomery, *ob.* unmarried.

1674.—Philip, seventh Earl of Pembroke and fourth of Montgomery, half-brother and heir to William. He died in 1683, leaving an only daughter.

1683.—Charlotte, sole child and heiress, married first John Lord Jefferies, son of Lord Chancellor Jefferies, by whom she had an only daughter; secondly, Thomas Viscount Windsor of Ireland. In the year 1710, by decree of the High Court of Chancery for the payment of the debts of the late Earl of Pembroke, the manor or lordship of Wentllwch, with all its rights and appurtenances, was sold by Lord Windsor and his wife, and by them conveyed to John Morgan, Esq., of London, merchant, for the sum of £9,000.

1710.—John Morgan, Esq., merchant, afterwards of Ruperra, which estate he purchased.

1715.—John Morgan, Esq., of Tredegar, nephew and heir.

1719.—William Morgan, Esq., s. and h., afterwards Sir William Morgan, Knight of the Bath.

1731.—William Morgan, Esq., s. and h., died unmarried and intestate.

1763.—Thomas Morgan, Esq., of Ruperra, commonly called General Morgan, brother of Sir William Morgan, and uncle of the last.

1769.—Thomas Morgan, Esq., died unmar., s. and h.

1771.—Chas. Morgan, Esq., brother and h., *ob. s. p.*

1787.—John Morgan, Esq., brother and h., *ob. s. p.*

1792.—Sir Charles Morgan, Bart., husband of Jane Morgan, daughter of Thomas Morgan of Ruperra, and sister of the last John Morgan, who devised by his will all his estates to his brother-in-law, Sir Charles Gould, who, in consequence of the direction of such will, assumed with the estates the name and arms of Morgan. *Ob. 1806.*

1806.—Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.

1846.—Sir Charles Morgan Robinson Morgan, Bart., afterwards the first Lord Tredegar.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF NEWPORT CASTLE.

THE first building of a castle at Newport is, according to Mr. Wakeman, attributed to William Earl of Gloucester with every degree of probability, and the town soon after. There can be little doubt that this is correct, as it would be most natural for him to erect some defence at the entrance of his territory at the river where the road crossed it from the other side, which belonged to another lordship. I have, however, not seen any traces of a structure earlier than the present, though there may be some, and have only to treat of that which we now see.

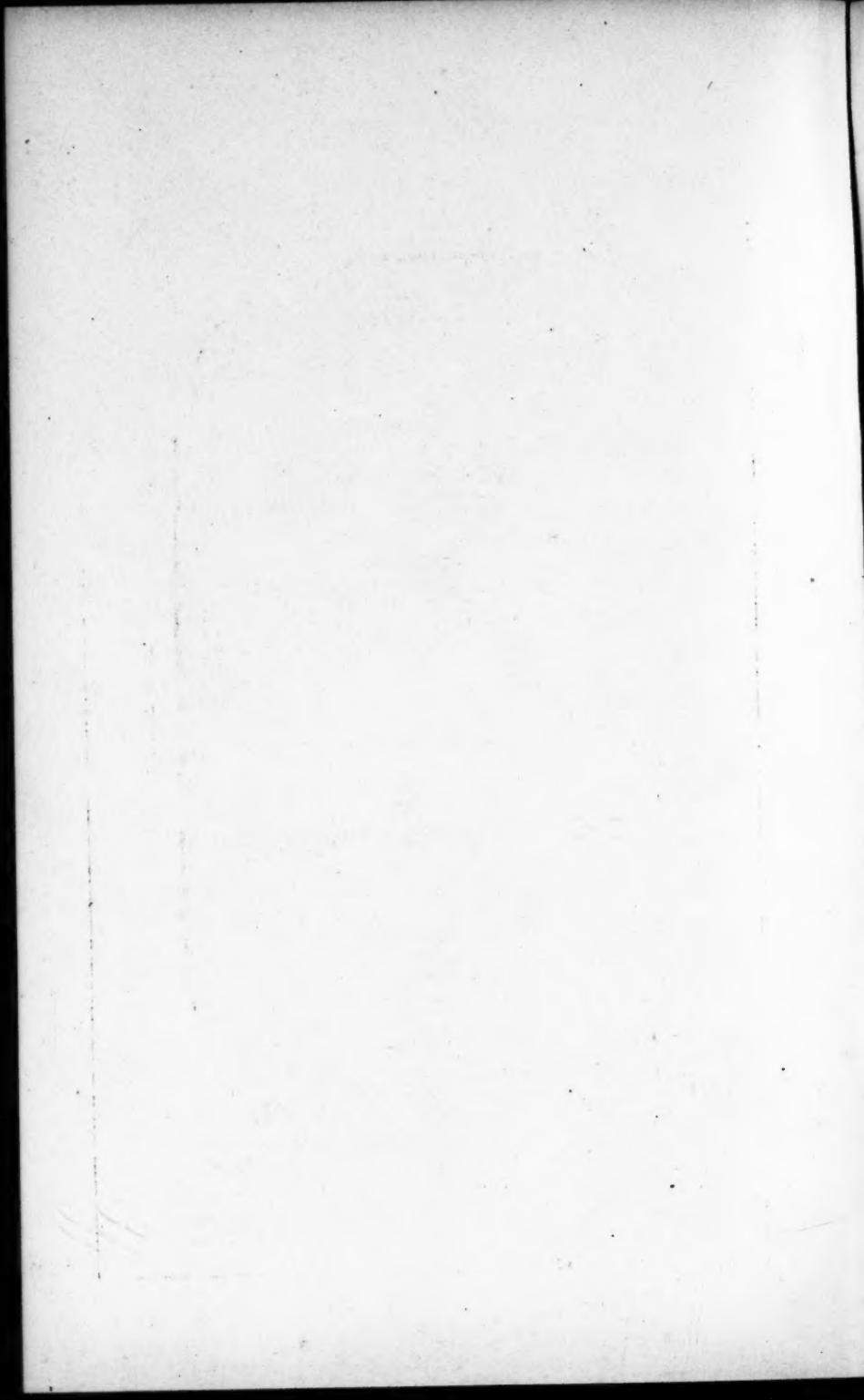
The present Castle, as its style of architecture and plan seem to indicate, appears to have been the work originally of the fourteenth century, though from circumstances altered, modified, and in fact partly rebuilt in the early half of the fifteenth century.

From the time of the conquest of Glamorgan by Robert Fitz Hamon, the lordships of Glamorgan and Wentllwch had always belonged to the same person, and Glamorgan being the most important lordship had always been the residence of the feudal chief; but in



NEWPORT CASTLE.

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consequence of Gilbert de Clare dying in 1314 without issue male, his estates were divided between his sisters, coheiresses. Eleanor, the wife of Hugh le Despenser, had the lordship of Glamorgan ; and Margaret, wife of Hugh de Audeley, had Wentllwch. Here, then, these lordships became disconnected, and Wentllwch became a separate, substantial, and important lordship of itself, and was afterwards designated the "Dominium de Newport in Wallia." Margaret de Clare and her husband, Hugh de Audeley, did not come into possession immediately, for the King, Edward II, kept possession of the estates till the partition took place in 1318, and then the King and Le Despenser had it till 1326.

Having become an independent lordship, a suitable castle and residence for the lord and his family became necessary ; and about this time, or somewhat later, the architecture seems to fix the period of the commencement of the present structure, thus tallying with the history of the lordship. Much of the original walls of this structure still remains ; but in 1402 Owen Glyndwr ravaged and laid waste all Wentllwch, and burnt and destroyed the town and Castle ; so that on an *inquisitio p. m.* being held in 1403, on the death of Edmund, fifth Earl of Stafford, the jury returned the value of the lordship as worth nothing.

Humphrey, sixth Earl of Stafford, who succeeded in 1403, was an infant, and when he came of age, and had possession of his estates, probably commenced to rebuild or repair the Castle, as we find by the Exchequer Rolls they had been going on for some years, and the difference in the architecture seems to show this. The conversion of the Castle into a brewery some sixty years ago has necessarily made great disturbance, and rendered it somewhat difficult to trace the original plan of the interior. I find from documents that the Castle has been for centuries in a state of ruin ; but how or when it became so is not known.

By indenture dated 1578, Henry Earl of Pembroke,

to whom it then belonged, granted all use of the Castle of Newport to William Herbert of St. Julian's, Esq., to hold for the term of three hundred years, at the yearly rent of five shillings, with a covenant for Mr. Herbert to repair the same from time to time, and leave it in repair at the end of the said term. In 1749 the Castle was reported entirely ruined, and so has remained to the present time, and is likely to continue.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CASTLE.

The Castle is built on the verge of the river ; the walls rise perpendicularly from the muddy shore, and are washed by the tide at high water. It faces the east, and presents towards the river a grand frontage of 228 feet in length, which consists of three bold projecting towers (one central, and two flanking), with intermediate receding curtain-walls. In this range of buildings were the principal apartments of the Castle. Great pains must have been taken, and great skill required in forming the foundations of this structure. There seems to have been no settlement in any part, and the foundations must be very deep, unless a portion of rock had been met with. It completely commanded the river and the bridge. The flanking towers at each end of the river-front are octagonal above, rising from square bases ; the angles of which slope off in the form of triangular buttresses, and die against the alternate faces of the octagon,—a style of building frequently used in the fourteenth century, and of which similar examples are seen in Caerphilly Castle, of the same period as these. The central tower is flanked at the corners by small octagonal turrets built in the same fashion.

The walls of the Castle, as will be seen by the plan, were nearly at right angles with this front, and enclosed an irregular space, one angle at the south-west corner being cut off. The walls were surrounded by a wide, deep moat, which every high tide must have

supplied, and must have been crossed by drawbridges at the entrances. The western portion of the moat is said to have been occupied by the Monmouthshire Canal, and the remainder to have been filled up with the excavated earth when the Canal was made in 1792.

The plan of the walls is chiefly taken from that given by Coxe; but whether that plan was made from a survey is doubtful, as portions of the main building are certainly incorrect; for he makes the south wall continuous the whole way, whereas the wall at Q terminates abruptly with a flat face, as though there had been an opening. The only portions of the wall now to be traced (1858) are those shaded in the plan. The principal entrance seems to have been on the south side; and the south gate, with the towers and defences, probably occupied the space between the end of the wall Q and the block of old masonry at B, which, from its massive thickness, and certain stones which resemble portions of steps, looks as though it had been part of a tower. If the gate were here, it has been entirely removed with the wall between Q and B. The only other remaining portion of the wall is a part of the north wall, where are several fireplaces, showing that there was a range of buildings two stories in height against that portion of the wall.

In the account of the repairs of the Castle in 1448 we find the cost of raising the north wall 3 feet, with *wall-stones* from a quarry belonging to the lord at Stow, that it was finished with battlements, and that the crests of these were made of ragstone brought from a quarry the other side of the Channel, belonging to St. Mary Redcliffe. The whole cost of the work, stone, carriage, labour, and all, being £20 : 9 : 3. We also find mention made of stone from a quarry at Milne Hill, outside the "north gate".

The north gate was situated at D in the plan, but all traces of it have long been removed, and the only record of it is the remembrance that some one who once dwelt in the Castle claimed a right of way out at that spot.

A drawbridge must have been necessary to cross the moat. The north-east tower is still inhabited. It was of three stories, the lower chamber being square, the two upper octagonal. The entrance to it, at (a), passing through the porter's or warder's room to the doorway of the lower chamber, and winding stairs leading to the upper rooms. This lower chamber was most likely a guardroom, as both it and the warder's room had loopholes which could command the bridge and approach at (p). The upper chamber was very likely occupied by the constable of the Castle, an officer of whom we find mention.

The staircase is made in the thickness of the wall, and both it and the guardroom were lighted by cross loopholes, which commanded the water-gate; and similar arrangements were made at the south-east tower. There is, therefore, reason to believe that there was another gate to the Castle, most probably on the south side, for on the opposite side of the road, near where the bridge-house stands, was a building called "The Long Stables", for the repairs of which we have accounts. Behind that was the Castle green, whilst across the road leading from the bridge were an archway and gate called "The Bridge Gate", and was most probably connected with the south gate of the Castle. This archway across the road existed in 1732, when Buck's view of the Castle was taken. The bridge across the river had always been a timber structure till the present stone bridge was erected in 1801, and it is likely that at that time great alterations were made about this spot.

Leaving the exterior walls we now come to a more interesting part of the ruins, and by careful examination, and the assistance of the Exchequer Rolls for the years 1435, 1447, and 1498, which I am so fortunate as to have, I think I am enabled to show the general arrangement of the interior of the Castle, and appropriate the various apartments to their proper uses, as will be seen by reference to the plan and the descriptive explanation.

I have the Exchequer Rolls of 1435, 1447, and 1498, and there are in the Record Office other similar Rolls. In the accounts of 1435 we have the cost of building and repairing the tower nigh the bridge ; and in 1447 we have the cost of the building or repairs of the tower called "The Chapel Tower", and the *camera retracta* adjoining it ; and in 1498 the cost of repairing the *camera retracta* adjoining the Chapel Tower. By these accounts we learn that it was a long, narrow chamber which ran parallel to the south end of the hall, and joined the Chapel Tower as it is called in the accounts of 1447, "camera retracta turri vocat : le Chapel toure annexata."

From the position of this chamber, and its possible connection with other parts of the Castle, there can, I think, be no doubt that it was the lord's withdrawing-room, to which he would retire from the public hall, and where he could dine in private if he chose. It directly communicated, by the turret-stairs, with the large room over the chapel.

The great tower in the centre, facing the river, was the Chapel Tower, on the north side of which were the great hall and other apartments looking over the river ; and on the other side were the lord's family and living chambers, in the upper story ; and the offices in the lower part, terminating in the Bridge Tower, where, in the two upper chambers, were two charming rooms, the upper one having once had a beautiful oak roof and ceilings. The Chapel Tower was in the middle, and the chapel occupied the whole of the middle portion of it ; and it is finely vaulted, very high, and of a cruciform shape ; and at each internal corner is a small square chamber in the two octagonal turrets, probably serving for sacristy or confessional. Above the chapel was a very large room, probably the principal apartment of the lord's suite. The approach to it was by the turret-stairs, marked K on the plan.

On the north side of the Chapel Tower, looking on the river, was the great hall (F), which occupied nearly

all the space between the north-east tower and the central or Chapel Tower. Its entire length within the walls was 50 feet, and its breadth 26. It had two large windows looking on the river, with a large fireplace between them, and probably had also windows looking into the Castle yard. The chief entrance was at (b), a portion of the doorway still remaining.

The south end wall (g) is altogether gone; but a small portion of it still remaining at (h) shows where it had been; but that is now gone, having been removed a few days after this survey was made.

The wooden screen, which always parted off the entrance-door from the body of the hall, stood where the dotted lines (c and d) are, with doorways as marked by those letters; whilst at (i) is a loop, or narrow window, to give light to the dark space behind the screen, which was usually covered by a gallery.

At the south end of the hall was a long, narrow chamber, called in the accounts the *camera retracta*, which I take to be the lord's withdrawing-room, where he retired from the hall, as it also, by the staircase (k), communicated with the large apartment over the chapel.

The kitchen-offices were most probably situated near the apartments of the lord, and below them, and near the south tower; but all trace of them has long been removed. About twenty or thirty years ago there was a prodigious oven discovered there, 12 feet in diameter, about 3 feet high in the middle, and 18 inches at the sides; the wall of the vaulted roof was 18 inches thick; and the floor was of very thick concrete. It appeared to have been new, and not much used. These huge ovens are occasionally met with in large castles. There is one at Caerphilly, outside the building; there is also one near the entrance of Oystermouth Castle, near Swansea; and there is also one of prodigious dimensions within the Castle at Ludlow. The baking of both bread and meat must have gone on on an immense scale. I fortunately saw this, and took the

dimensions of it, and it will be found marked on the plan of the Castle. It was, however, necessary to take it down to make room for the alterations which were required ; but it was a sad pity to destroy so fine a work.

In the centre tower, beneath the chapel, was the water-gate, or approach to the Castle from the river ; and here we have some fine vaults. The water-gate consisted of a low drop-archway with plain chamfered moulding, stretching across the whole space between the square bases from which the octagonal turrets at the corners rise. Its width is 18 feet ; and it was defended by three portcullises, which must have been drawn up into the chapel above, probably behind the altar. There is a similar case in the Castle at Chepstow, where the small portcullis was drawn up behind the altar in the small oratory of the apartments of the castellan or chief officer of the Castle. The water-gate opens into a lofty vault, 46 feet long, into which a boat could enter at high water. At the western end, on the north side, is a vault, 24 feet by 12, for the stowage of goods brought by boats ; opposite to which was the access to the court-yard of the Castle by steps on an inclined plane, as shown on the plan of the Castle.

The south gate, of which not a trace exists, was certainly the principal entrance to the Castle ; and there must, in all probability, have been a gate-house, certainly with towers and drawbridge, if the moat extended so far ; but as every trace has been for a long time swept away, it is vain to conjecture what may have been there.

On the plan I have suggested ideas of what may have been the internal arrangements from traces of the passages and buildings which I saw, and all that I saw in solid masonry is shaded in the plan ; the other outlines are conjectured from a continuation of the walls in actual existence.

PLAN OF NEWPORT CASTLE.

References to the Plan of the Castle of Newport, on the Usk, in the County of Monmouth, made from accurate Measurements by Octavius Morgan, Esq., M.P., F.S.A., and F. J. Mitchell, Esq. 1858. Scale, 12 feet to 1 inch.

Length of river-front, 228 ft.; north-east tower, 30 ft.: south-east tower, 32 ft.; central or Chapel Tower, 40 ft.; curtain-wall of hall, 65 ft.; curtain-wall between chapel and south-east tower, 61 ft. Total, 228 ft.

The shaded parts show the portions of the walls which then existed; the entire lines, the walls as given by Coxe; and the dotted lines, conjectural continuations and arrangements of the buildings.

A. Great courtyard or bailey of the Castle.
B. Walls of the Castle enclosing the bailey. These were surrounded by a wide and deep moat which was filled at high water. These walls are as given in Coxe's plan; but he shows no opening in the south wall for a gate. All the walls, except the parts shaded, are now destroyed.

C. The south gate and principal entrance (not shown in Coxe's plan) were probably hereabouts.

D. The north gate, shown in Coxe and mentioned in documents.
E. North-east tower; (a), entrance and winding stairs.
F. Great hall; (b), principal entrance; (c, d), site of screen across hall, with openings at (c and d); (e), fireplace with chimney, now removed.

G. Wall at south end of hall, separating it from H.
H. A long, narrow apartment called in documents *camera retracta*.

I. Central or Chapel Tower, entirely occupied by the chapel, having in the corner turrets two small, square, vaulted chambers (f and g).

K. Turret-stairs leading to large square room over chapel.
L. Supposed continuation of chapel westward, or antechapel.
M. Chamber similar to H, approached by L and N.
N. A narrow passage in the thickness of the wall, leading to O.
O. South-east tower, containing the principal apartments of the Castle, for the use of the lord and his family.

P. Turret-stairs communicating with those apartments, the roof of tower, and passage along the top of wall, Q.

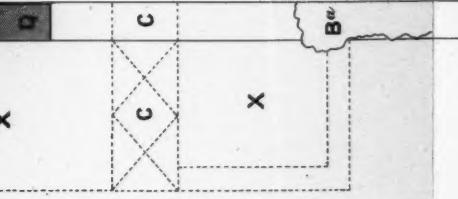
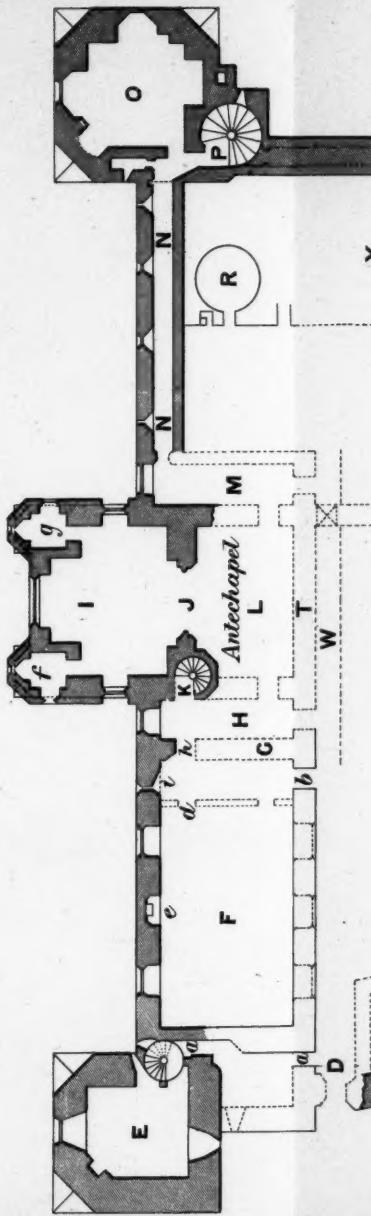
Q. Portion of south wall approached from staircase, P, having a walk or passage on the top which probably communicated with the towers and buildings of the south gate.

R. A large, low, circular, vaulted chamber resembling a vast oven, 12 feet diameter, and 3 feet high; probably connected with the kitchens, which most likely were in this part of the Castle. Similar large ovens are met with at Caerphilly, Oystermouth, and Ludlow Castles, but usually outside the walls, as if additions.

**GROUND PLAN OF THE CASTLE OF NEWPORT OF THE USK,
IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.**

MADE FROM ACCURATE MEASUREMENTS BY OCTAVIUS MORGAN, Esq., M.P., AND F. J. MITCHELL, Esq.,
October, 1885.

The shaded parts show the portions of the walls which actually existed in 1885; the entire lines, such parts as are given in
Cope's plan, as if existing in his time; the dotted lines, conjectural continuations and arrangement of the building.



SCALE $\frac{3}{8}$ INCH TO A FOOT.

Pier of Arch in Chapel

Cap of Shaft

Groining Rib



A

B

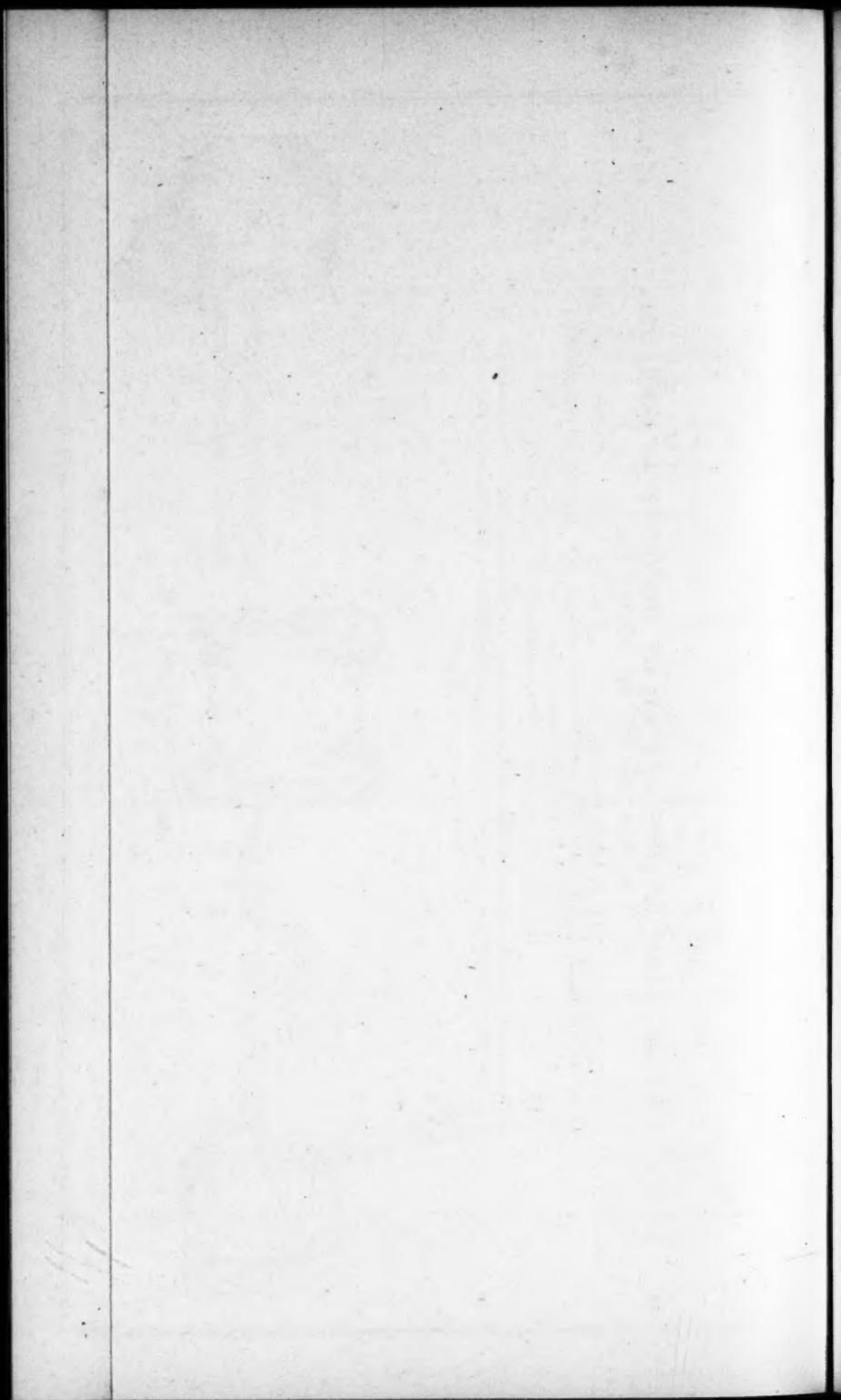
SCALE OF FEET.

Foot is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard

20 feet = 6.0636 yards

30 feet = 9.0954 yards

40 feet = 12.1271 yards



S. Site of the entrance (now closed) of the passage which descended to the vaults and water-gate beneath the Chapel Tower.

T. Conjectured west wall of chapel.

V. Conjectured wall enclosing in a court the kitchens and other domestic buildings.

W. Conjectured covered way from kitchen to hall.

X. Conjectured position of the buildings of south gate and offices.

h. Entrance from hall to *camera retracta*, which was the lord's withdrawing-room, to which he retired from the hall.

i. Small loop or window to give light to the space behind the screen of the hall, over which was frequently a gallery.

It is most probable that the lord's chancery, exchequer, and other government offices, and also barracks for his troops, if he had any, would be within the Castle walls.

ST. WOOLLOS' CHURCH, NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.¹

ST. WOOLLOS' CHURCH has ever been regarded by antiquaries, and, indeed, by all who have paid attention to it, as one of the most curious, interesting, and remarkable churches not only in this neighbourhood, but also in the Principality. For this reason the intended repairs and restoration have induced me to make a careful examination of it with a view to preserve an accurate account of its present architectural condition and peculiarities, by pointing out not only what actually exists, and is seen, but also recording any discoveries which may be made during the progress of the works. I hope I shall be able to show that this church is still more curious and interesting than it has hitherto been considered, and I shall at the same time endeavour to trace out and elucidate its progress and history.

The church of St. Woollos is remarkable on many accounts : first, from its fine position, standing, as it does, on the summit of a lofty hill, commanding a most extensive and magnificent panoramic view, and being itself a landmark and a prominent feature in the landscape from a vast tract of country ; secondly, from the great and unusual length of the building as a simple

¹ Written in 1854, before the restoration.

parish church, being 165 feet ; thirdly, from its highly picturesque exterior and outline, arising from the number and variety of its gabled roofs of different heights ; and lastly, from the extraordinary interposition of a small, low building between the tower and the main body of the church, usually called St. Mary's Chapel. This portion of the church has ever been an enigma to all who have studied it, nor has its position as yet ever been satisfactorily explained or accounted for. I hope, however, by the joint aid of history and its architecture to be enabled to throw some light upon this mysterious place : at least I shall hazard a new conjecture as to its history, and endeavour to show the grounds on which I have based such conjecture.

The church is divided, in its length, into five parts : the tower, the so-called St. Mary's Chapel, the great body of the church (consisting of the nave and aisles), a certain prolongation of the nave, and the chancel at its extreme east end. These we will consider in their chronological order, by which plan we shall have a consecutive history of the church, and shall see how and when the alterations and additions were made to it.

The patron saint to whom the church is dedicated is St. Woollos, and a reference to his history will, I think, be necessary to enable us to elucidate the history of the church. The proper and original name of our Saint was St. Gwynllyw (in Latin, "Sanctus Gundleus"), afterwards corrupted into St. Woollos. All the accounts of him agree in the facts of his being a person of great sanctity, who lived at the end of the sixth century, and who dwelt and built a church in that part of the country called Gwentloog, but said to have been called after him Gwynllywawc, and that he died and was buried there. The most detailed history of him, however, is given in the life published by the Welsh MSS. Society, in the *Lives of the Cambro-British Saints*, from an ancient MS. of the thirteenth or fourteenth century in the British Museum ; and as this history will be of assistance in the elucidation of our subject, I shall give a short abstract of some of the principal facts recorded.

St. Gwynllyw was the son of Glywys ap Tegid ap Cadell, and was chieftain of that part of the country now called Wentllwch; but which some say was called after him Gwynllywawc, and thence Wentloog; properly, however, Gwentllwch. He married Gwladys, daughter of Brychan, King of Brycheiniog, and had a numerous family. Being a person of great sanctity he was instructed by an angel, in a vision, to go and seek for a mount where he should find a white ox having a black spot on his forehead; which mount, when he had found it, should become his country. He obeyed these instructions, and travelled till he came to the mount where he met with such a white ox. There he remained, built a habitation, marked out a burying-place, in the midst of which he built a church with boards and rods ("tabulis et virgis fundavit templum"), which he visited with frequent prayers. This spot has always been believed to be the site of our church. Here he continued to live, practising great austerities. One day, complaining of the dryness of the soil, he pierced the ground with his stick, and a spring of water gushed out and continued to flow without intermission, and was afterwards called Gwynllyw's Well. At length he died, and his body was "buried in the pavement of the church, where angelic visitation is frequently seen, and persons sick of divers disorders are cured of every complaint."

The next historical fact recorded is that in the time of Griffith ap Cynan, King of all Wales, Edward the Confessor being King of England, merchants frequently came from England and exchanged merchandise in the harbour at the mouth of the Usk. After the business was accomplished they paid toll. Having refused to do so on one occasion, Rigrith, son of Imor, went to the harbour, cut the rope from their anchor, and carried off and deposited the anchor in the church of St. Gwynllyw. The merchants complained of this to Earl Harold, who came with a force and ravaged the country. The alarmed inhabitants brought their valuable property, and deposited it for safety in the Church of St. Gwyn-

llyw, which was full of garments, provisions, and many valuable things. The followers of Earl Harold about 1060 *broke the lock of the church*, and plundered it. The anchor, however, which was the cause of the robbery, was not seen, though it was in the church ; but some cheeses, when cut, appeared bloody within. This supposed miracle so alarmed the plunderers and Harold that they restored everything they had taken. Harold (who was then probably living at or near Portskewet) was shortly after conquered at the battle of Hastings.

Ednowain, from North Wales, a friend of Caradoc, King of Glamorgan, being excited by the persuasion of the Devil, one night broke the lock, and got into the church of the holy Gwynnlyw, stole the cup and the ecclesiastical vestments. For this he was struck with idiocy, and dressed himself up in the sacerdotal vestments, and was found by the priests in that state.

Certain Norman knights having entered into a conspiracy against William, the old King of England, on being discovered fled to Caradoc, King of Glamorgan. The King, William (the Conqueror), hearing whither they had fled, sent to Caradoc to demand that he should deliver them up or expel them from his dominions. This he refused, and the King sent his son, William Rufus, with a large force into Glamorgan, which was laid waste. The army, on their return, rested one night in tents about the Church of St. Gwynnlyw, the town being empty of men, who had fled to the woods for safety. The men fared abundantly from the corn in the houses ; but at the intercession of St. Gwynnlyw no food could be got for the horses, who would not eat the oats. This miracle having been seen, William Consul among the first offered valuable gifts to God and the church ; and they returned to England, and related in magnificent terms the noble intercession of St. Gwynnlyw.¹

¹ We insert here the following note upon St. Woollos Church, from a paper written by the late Mr. Wakeman :—

"This church was plundered by Irish pirates in 864, and by the Danes in 875 ; again by Earl Harold and his Saxons in the reign

So much for the original foundation of the church, on which I consider its subsequent history greatly depends. We have seen that the *first* structure, erected at the end of the sixth century, was a wooden church built with boards and rods, probably wattled work. This was in due course replaced by a stone structure, and enlarged from time to time. It was a church where miracles had been performed, and was therefore held in great veneration. What was its architecture cannot be told ; but my impression has always been that the mysterious building between the greater Norman church and the later Perpendicular tower was the site of the original church of St. Woollos ; that it had ever been venerated and preserved, first by the Normans, and later when the Perpendicular tower was added at the west end ; in fact, that it had been considered as a very ancient church of peculiar sanctity, and treated in the same way as the Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea at Glastonbury ; and a larger new church erected and added at the east end by the Normans, in a way similar to that in which that great Abbey Church was

of Edward the Confessor ; and entirely destroyed by Caradoc ap Griffith ap Rhydderch, lord of Caerleon, in the reign of William the Conqueror, who gave the Church of St. Gunleus to Gloucester Abbey, the year uncertain, but the gift was confirmed by King Stephen in 1138. The church was, no doubt, rebuilt by the monks of Gloucester, who appropriated the great tithes, and placed here a vicar, who was occasionally assisted by one or two monks sent from Gloucester for recreation or change of air, as appears by a very curious document in the possession of the late Sir Thomas Phillips of Middle Hill, unfortunately imperfect.

"In the *Gloucester Cartulary* is the following entry :—

" 'De Novo Burgo. Dominus Willelmus Junior Rex apud Gloucester, morbo gravi vexatus, dedit Deo et Ecclesie Sancti Petri Gloucestræ Ecclesiam Sancti Gundeleyn de Novo Burgo cum xv hidis.

" 'Robertus filius Omeri dedit Ecclesie Sancti Gundeleyn de Novo Burgo decimam molendini sui de Ebboth. Milo filius sūns confirmavit.

" 'Morganus filius Morgani dedit quadraginta acres terre ecclesie de Novo Burgo in Mora de Goldeleye tempore Serlonis Abbatis.

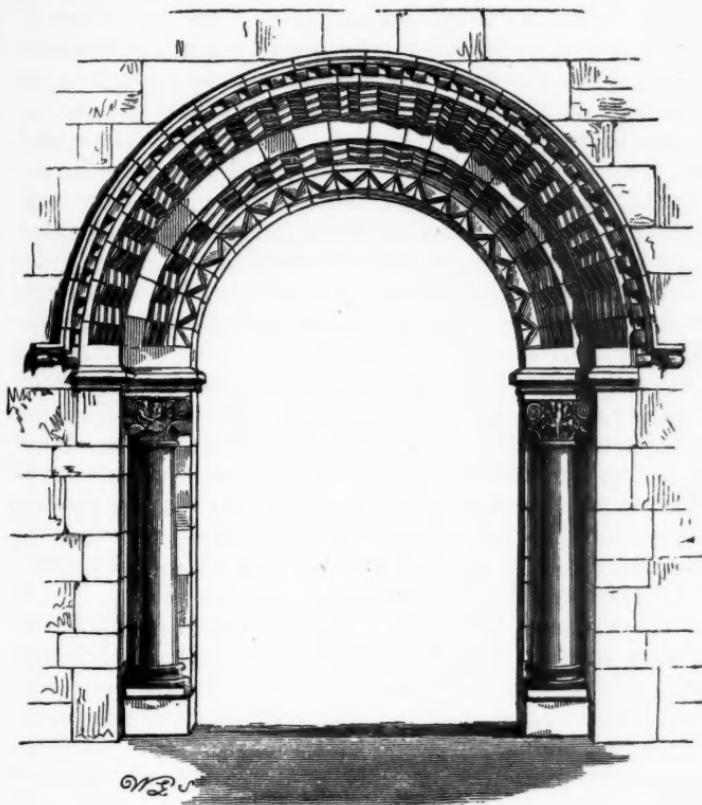
" 'Ecclesia Sancti Gundeleyn de Novo Burgo in curia domini Theobaldi Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi monachis Gloucestræ adjudicata est et postea Willelmi Comitis Gloucestræ confirmatione donata tempore Hamelini Abbatis.'"

added to the east end of the earlier and highly venerated Chapel of St. Joseph ; and thus the small Church of St. Woollos has, in consequence of the veneration in which it was originally held, been preserved to the present day ; probably, in the first place, as a narthex or porch of entrance to the larger church which was added to the east end of it by making the entrance where the apse or chancel-arch was, and where the fine Norman archway now is. This is, I think, evident, and proved from the fact that the Norman archway (of which we give an illustration engraved by Mr. Worthington G. Smith from a photograph taken by Mr. W. H. Banks) has never been an outer doorway. It is too wide for a door, and there are no marks of there ever having been hinges in the wall, no hole for a large sliding bar to fasten the door (if there ever had been one), and the stones of the mouldings, columns, and capitals, can never have been exposed to the outer air as they are not in the least weathered.

I can, therefore, come to no other conclusion but that St. Mary's Chapel is on the site of the church which St. Woollos built on the top of the hill, and is the oldest part of the structure, though probably repaired and enlarged at various times ; and that the other buildings have been added on *down the hill* at the east end, and the tower added on at the west end at a later period. It is only of late years that this chapel has been opened and used as an entrance ; for the church was the last building in the town, there not having been a single house on the west of the church, and down to 1818 it was only used as a burial-place. In that year, however, much repair was done to the church, and I am told that the windows in St. Mary's Chapel, which were very small and narrow, were considerably enlarged, and the walls repaired ; but I can get no information as to their peculiar character.

I conclude, therefore, that this is the ancient church founded by St. Woollos, and that though the stones may have been renewed, it is, perhaps, the most ancient

place of worship in England. As a proof of its antiquity, it may be remarked that the side-walls are not parallel, and the junction of the new Norman wall with the previous one could be observed when the repairs were being made. Within there is some arcading of rude late work, but nothing to fix a date.



This archway is very remarkable from the fact that though the mouldings of the arch are Norman, and very fine, the detached columns which support them are Roman, or were very probably copied, if not actu-

ally brought from, some Roman remains at Caerleon. This is shown by the fact that the capitals are debased Corinthian or composite. At the top of the shaft is the Roman apophysis ; and the shaft, which is too large for Norman, enlarges with the classical or Roman entasis. The lower apophysis has been cut off to shorten the column, the lower part of which rests on a double Attic torus, and that on a plinth.

In the New Series of the *Archæologia Cambrensis* (1851), Mr. Freeman has written a long account and description of this arch, and he there remarks on its inexplicable peculiarities. Only two sides of each capital are seen (they being square, and standing in an angle), and they look as if the large, coarse leaves had been cut away to introduce some religious subjects. On one side there seems to be a representation of the Creation and the Trinity, the creating Father being represented by an open hand, the impersonation of the Son by a human face, the Holy Ghost by a dove, beneath which is an orb to represent the Spirit of God moving on the face of the waters. On the adjoining side is shown the fall of man, by the expulsion from Paradise by a rude figure of a person with a sword driving away a man. On the other capital are shown figures holding up the arms as if in torments ; and on the fourth side a figure holding a palm-branch, ascending, and conducted by the Dove over the globe.

Mr. Freeman seems to fancy the building to have been a western Lady Chapel ; but I can hardly think that a Lady Chapel would have been tacked on to a larger church, especially of such rude construction, and so become simply a passage to the larger church. There does not appear to have been any bell-tower to the Norman church ; but there may have been a bell-cot at the west end of the gable of what I call St. Woollos' original church.

This Norman arch is now closed by a wooden door, and made the principal entrance into the church. It leads down by two steps into one of the most perfect

and beautiful Norman naves to be seen. The Church of St. Woollos was at a very early period given to the Abbey of Gloucester, and the Norman nave was most probably built by the abbot and monks ; but it may have been built by Robert Earl of Gloucester, natural son of Henry I, and frequently called Robert Consul. He married Mabel, daughter and heiress of Robert Fitz-Hamon, the original conqueror of the district of Wentloog ; by which marriage he became possessed of the country, and lord of Wentloog.

It consists of an arcade of five arches with clerestory quite perfect, and the corbels now remaining in the aisle and the clerestory windows above them show that there were originally lean-to aisles. At the east end must have been the high altar ; but that wall has been cut through to lengthen the church, in the Decorated period, as portions of arches show. A Decorated chapel, probably a Lady chapel, which now forms the chancel, was added ; but the great east wall was not cut through for an arch, but only an opening about 15 feet high made ; the wall above resting on a horizontal bresumner-beam, having above it a singing-gallery approached by a turret-staircase. It was when the church was restored, in 1852, that this wall was cut through, and a chancel-arch formed. The chancel, as already stated, was originally Decorated ; but had a poor, debased Perpendicular window at the east end. The walls and windows were defective, and it was necessary to rebuild them. The chancel is, therefore, nearly all new ; but the tracery of the side-windows was carefully copied, and shows the style ; a new Decorated east window inserted ; and the whole church was newly roofed, the old ceiling having been rough lath and plaster.

In 1403 Wentloog and Newport were ravaged by Owen Glyndwr, and the Castle, town, and church were burnt. Early, however, in the century it was repaired, and new aisles erected, with the beautiful, large, Perpendicular windows which now exist, and they are beautiful examples of the work. By whom I cannot

say; but in the small lights of the tracery there existed, in coloured glass, the badge and knots of the Stafford family, Henry Stafford, second Duke of Buckingham being lord of Wentllwch and Newport at that time.



Stafford Badge.



Knot.

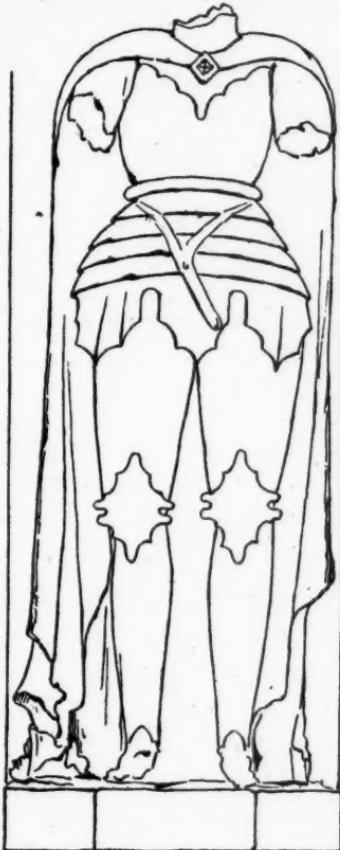
The lower story of the tower was then added to the west end of St. Woollos, or, as it was called, St. Mary's Chapel. The tower was then only built up one story, as the architecture of the large window shows.

In the latter part of the fifteenth century Henry VII reversed the attainder of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who had been beheaded. Henry VIII granted the lordship of Wentloog to his widow, Katharine. She married Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford, and he, in right of his wife, became Lord Marcher of Wentloog. He seems to have had a fancy for church building, for he built the great tower at Llandaff Cathedral which goes by his name, and I have strong reason for considering the completion of the tower of St. Woollos to have been his work, and that the statue upon it is his statue. It is a very rare thing to have a statue of an individual on a church tower. There is one at Shrewsbury. The tower is of three stories, with angular buttresses at each corner, having two sets-off in each story ; and the buttresses continue up to the top of the battlements, and form a square bed on the top, as if it had been intended for a small pinnacle. The doorway and window in the lower story correspond in every particular with the large Perpendicular window of the aisles erected in the early part of the fifteenth century;

but the windows in the two upper stories are small, square-headed, two-light windows of the latter end of the century ; and there is also a perceptible difference in the masonry. In the middle story is a small, single-light window above the two-light, and close below the stringcourse which divides the stories.

Just above this window is a round bracket on which stands a statue of a figure in armour, beneath a canopy, which is in front of the upper windows. This figure is in the armour of the latter part of the fifteenth century, and time of Henry VII, and the figure wears a mantle fastened over the breast in a clasp or morse. The head, however, is wanting : it is said to have been torn down at the time of the civil war by the followers of Cromwell.

In the centre of the upper stringcourse, below the battlements, is a shield of arms, viz., three trumpets, or clarions in pale. They are clearly and distinctly trumpets. This is on the west side. On the north side of the tower is a similar shield bearing the cross of St. George ; and on the south side is a similar shield bearing the large double Tudor rose, one rose on another. I am strongly inclined to consider this to be a statue of Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford, and uncle to Henry VII. The wearing a mantle indicates him to



be a Knight of the Garter ; the arms of St. George's cross borne by the Knight of the Garter on the mantles, and the other shield bearing the royal Tudor badge, the double rose, the red superimposed on the white. None but a royal personage would have borne or put up that badge.



Now for the arms of the three trumpets. I can find no such coat, and can only imagine that they may have been chosen for a compliment or memorial to Robert Earl of Gloucester, frequently called Robert Consul, who was the first Lord Marcher of Wentllwch by marrying the heiress of Robert Fitz-Hamon, and in whose time the Norman church was built. His arms are called three rests, organs, clarions, or other things, which no heralds seem to understand. The word clarion is always understood to mean a trumpet, except in the parlance of heralds. What these trumpets may signify I should be glad to learn, but have never met with any one who can tell.

MONUMENTS.

There are a few ancient monuments in the church, but they have in past times been sadly mutilated; probably, in the first instance, in the time of the civil wars of the Commonwealth, and subsequently neglected because no one knew to whom they belonged, or cared to inquire. The oldest is a figure of a cross-legged knight with long heater-shield in sandstone, sadly mutilated. There is, however, a small, single flower of foliage, which together with the armour and position

exactly correspond with the monument in Salisbury Cathedral, erected to William Longspée, Earl of Salisbury, which fixes its date to be about 1226; and that enables me to identify him with William de Berkerolles, grandson of Roger de Berkerolles. The latter was one of the Norman knights who aided Robert Fitz-Hamon in the conquest of Glamorgan, received the grant of the manor, and built the Castle of Rogerstone, near Newport, to which he gave his name. There is a female figure of the same date, which may have been his wife. Roger de Berkerolles helped to form and endow the parish of Bassaleg.

There are also the mutilated remains of an alabaster monument which once existed, in the church, to the memory of Sir John Morgan of Tredegar, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, who died in 1491; and his wife, who was the daughter and heiress of David Matthew of Llandaff. These are sadly mutilated, some of the alabaster having been used in bygone days for burning into plaster. An angel, however, bearing a shield of arms, remained among the fragments, which enabled me to identify the person represented. The figure is in armour, and wears a collar of SS, to which is appended a small Maltese cross. He is also said to have been a Knight of Rhodes, and to have gone on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and made an offering to the Sepulchre.¹

There is also another monument, of the body of a man lying beneath a canopy, with various coats of arms sculptured on the stone, which proves it to have been the tomb of Sir Walter Herbert of St. Julian's, of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

C. O. S. MORGAN.

¹ See *Arch. Camb.*, Series V, vol. i, p. 40, for a poem in his honour by Gwilym Tew.

CAERLEON, MONMOUTHSHIRE.¹

THIS old city is greatly honoured by your presence. Deserted almost for ages, your visit here to-day brings back to one's mind some of its former glories, when it could boast of its seat of learning, its archbishop's see, and of it being the home of chivalrous deeds. The memory of these yet lingers, and inspires, as of yore, noble thoughts which have but recently found expression in some of the sweetest poetry of the present age.

Long before the Roman came, ere the universal conqueror set foot upon the soil of Britain, Caerwysk (for that was its old British name) was a place of some importance, and was said to have been built by Belinus after he and his brother Brennus had invaded Gaul, Italy, and Germany. Then Belinus returned to Britain, where, when he came, he repaired old and decayed cities, and also built a new one on the river Usk, near to Severn, called Caerusk ; and afterwards the "City of the Legion", because in the time of Claudio Cæsar divers Roman legions were there billeted and lodged,—now called Caerleon. He also built a harbour or small haven for ships to ride in, in Troynovant, in the summit at top whereof stood a vessel of brass, in which, after his death, his burnt ashes were inclosed, which still retains the name of Billingsgate.

Caerleon, then, may be said to date from about B.C. 300. Whilst an old British city it must have grown into some importance, for when the Romans came it was presided over by an Arch-Flamen, of which there were three in Britain ; the sees of these Arch-Flamen being three of the most noble cities in Britain, which were London, Everwick, and the "City of Legions", on the river Usk, in the county of Monmouth ; which "is a

¹ Read on the visit of the Association, August 25, 1885.

place delicious, and passing in riches all other cities", as we are told by an old French writer. And it was here Caractacus held his court some two or three centuries before King Arthur's time.

During the Roman occupancy of Britain its importance was increased. It became the headquarters of the second legion of Augustus, with Vespasian at their head, and Roman civilisation became engrafted on the old British city; and when Giraldus came to it, between seven hundred and eight hundred years after the Romans had left, he described it by saying "it was of undoubted antiquity, and handsomely built of brick. Many vestiges of its former splendour may yet be seen; immense palaces ornamented with gilded roofs, in imitation of Roman magnificence; a tower of prodigious size; remarkable hot baths; relics of temples and theatres, enclosed within fine walls, parts of which remain standing. You will find on all sides, both within and without the circuit of the walls, subterranean vaults and aqueducts; and what I think most worthy of notice, stoves constructed with wonderful art to transmit the heat insensibly through narrow tubes."

This old city is intimately associated with the introduction of Christianity into the island. It was under Vespasian's fostering care, the lieutenant-general of the second legion, that St. Joseph of Arimathea and his companions came to Britain; and it was through his entreaty with the then King and Queen of Britain, Arviragus and Genissa, those favours and freedoms which by our histories he enjoyed at Glastonbury, were bestowed upon him; for thus speaking of Vespasian, John Harding says,—

"With whom Joseph, full holy and wise,
Of Arimathea, with his followers fourteen,
Into this land came, and gave content;
For whom so then Vespasian pray'd the King,
The Queen also, to him to be good Lord
And good Lady, which they granted in all things.
When Vespasian returned to Rome, home again,
The King indued Joseph in Meatrine."

If, as some authors state, St. Peter went to Britain, and there made a long stay, the probability is that he came here. In this city, saith a French author, King Lucius was born, and the old school founded by him brought forth many noble martyrs. St. Amphibalus, who converted St. Alban, was born and bred and instructed in learning, and was living here probably when the Diocletian persecution began, when St. Julian and St. Aaron were martyred ; and this before St. Amphibalus fled from Caerleon, and was entertained by St. Alban.

On the south-west, the first Christian martyrs that ever suffered in Britain, SS. Julian and Aaron, have consecrated the spot, and the name of St. Julian still points out the place of their martyrdom. St. Gildas describes them as “summa magnanimitate in acie Christi præstantes”. They were greatly honoured by the Christians of that time with churches dedicated to them, pilgrimages to the place of martyrdom, and both here and in other places honoured, invoked, and prayed unto fervently upon the ceasing of the persecution.

Of these churches there are no traces left ; indeed, with the exception of the Roman wall at its south-east angle, the amphitheatre, the base of the Giant's Tower, and the contents of the Museum, there is little beyond history and tradition to tell us of the former magnificence of Caerleon.

After the Romans had left, it became the metropolitan see of St. Dubritius and St. David ; and there is still hovering about the old city a halo of romance, especially within these walls, as being the very spot where King Arthur held his court, and where he kept the Feast of Whitsuntide. It was here he was crowned, and here yet remains the base of the gigantic tower which was without the Palace, and into which the old writers tell us King Arthur and his knights withdrew to discuss the matter of paying more tribute to Rome, concerning which ambassadors had arrived whilst the festivities of the coronation were going on. Around

the mound upon which the gigantic tower Giraldus speaks of stood, there was a moat. The base of one of the towers which supported the drawbridge may yet be seen ; and nearly forty years ago a large building was discovered, described by Mr. Lee as a Roman villa, the lower part of some columns from which are placed near the walk as you ascend the mound. Proceeding towards the top you will observe the place where

“ Arthur had the jousts
Down in the flat field by the shore of Usk
Holden. The gilded parapets were crowned
With faces, and the great tower filled with eyes
Up to the summit, and the trumpets blew.”

This was probably the spot, also, where, as Lord Tredegar told us on Monday, the races were held in the Roman times. When you arrive at the top you will observe the same kind of flag King Arthur used as his banner in 516, at the battle of Mount Badon, as Bede, Nennius, and Henry of Huntingdon, all allude to. The *Annales Cambriæ* say thus, “ Bellum Badonis in quo Arthur portavit crucem Domini Nostri Iesu Christi : tribus diebus et tribus noctibus humeros suos, et Brittones victores fuerunt”; and ever after assumed this ensign for his arms instead of the dragon which he had borne before.

You will observe with especial interest also, towards the north-east, a church now called Llanhinnock, the place where Taliesin “of the radiant brow”, the chief of the Bards, erected a church, and dedicated it to the name of his father, St. Henwg, who went to Rome on a mission to Constantine the Blessed, requesting he would send St. Germanus and St. Lupus to Britain to strengthen the faith, and renew baptism there. The large stones you will see are the only relics of the gigantic tower. “ Sic transit gloria mundi.” The tradition is, that this tower was so high that from its top you could see the Bristol Channel over the Christchurch Hills ; and in the *Enid* Tennyson says :

“ Now thrice that morning Guinevere had climb'd
The Giant Tower, from whose high crest, they say,

Men saw the goodly hills of Somerset,
 And white sails flying on the yellow sea ;
 But not to goodly hill or yellow sea
 Look'd the fair Queen, but up the Vale of Usk,
 By the flat meadow, till she saw them come,
 And then descending, met them at the gates ;
 Embraced her with all welcome as a friend,
 And did her honour as the Prince's bride,
 And clothed her for her bridal like the sun.
 And all that week was old Caerleon gay,
 For by the hands of Dubric, the high Saint,
 They twain were wedded with all ceremony."

After the sixth century all we learn of Caerleon is that the Danes occasionally plundered the town, and ravaged the district, that in 958 and 962 King Edgar visited it, that he arranged the disputes between Morgan and Owen ap Howel Dda, and got as a tribute from Morgan one hundred cows annually. What with the attacks of the Saxons, the Danes, and the continual quarrels with the lords of Caerleon and the Princes of South Wales, it must have been a place of almost constant warfare. In 976 the Danes entirely destroyed the city, and it was no better after the Normans came. Sometimes held by them, and then retaken again, at last, in 1217, William Marshall the elder got possession of the Castle. In 1231, however, Llewelyn attacked it, and after much fighting destroyed the garrison, and burnt the Castle to the ground.

ROBT. F. WOOLLETT.

Newport, August 26th, 1885.



CAERLEON SEAL.

CAERLEON ON USK.¹

IT IS not often that antiquaries in these days have an opportunity of getting so interesting an insight into the works and ways and old memorials of the Romans in Britain as may be enjoyed at the famous Isca Silurum. It is in the Roman associations of this ancient station of the second Augustan legion, who were in barracks here for years, and in the evidence of this occupation, which is afforded by coins of the late Roman emperors, by tessellated pavements and Samian ware ; by objects in bronze and iron, glass, enamel, bone, and ivory, intended for ornament or use ; and especially in memorial tablets, commemorative, votive, and sepulchral, that the interest of Caerleon chiefly consists ; and every one interested in such things cannot do better than study at Caerleon the refinement and civilisation of the lives of the Romans in Britain.

The Via Julia, which ran from Caerleon, through Caerwent, to Chepstow or Caldecot, to cross the Channel, may still be traced in the neighbourhood ; and along its route, after the Roman fashion, have been discovered tokens of ancient sepulture, suggesting the exact fitness of the epigraphic adjuration, "Siste, viator." The immediate neighbourhood, which in Roman and later times must have been richly wooded, and is described as having been a very bower of trees, has fortunately escaped the invasion of the iron trade ; and in tracing the old walls, whose mortar is still binding, through the cementing property of its pounded brick element, the visitor roams over the greenest of meadows.

¹ We have much pleasure in reprinting here, with the kind permission of the Editor, Mr. W. F. Pollock, an article which appeared in *The Saturday Review* of 4th December 1875, written by our late valued member, the Rev. James Davies of Moor Court.

The chief points of interest are in private grounds or in the excellent local Museum ; but the modern occupants of Caerleon are the very reverse of churlish as regards access to their old memorials ; and from Mr. J. E. Lee, the owner of the Priory, and author of that very thorough monograph (now out of print), entitled *Isca Silurum*, down to the cottage-dweller who has a brick with a Roman stamp upon it in his coal-yard, all evince a worthy pride in facilitating and rendering pleasant the visits of the curious. A hasty or indolent visitor will, perhaps, find it enough to spend two or three hours in the Museum, where local pride and energy have collected many curious mementoes of our Roman conquerors and civilisers ; but it needs no great effort of pedestrianism to reach the hamlet of Bulmore, little more than a mile from Caerleon, on the Caerwent road, where have been found a large number of sepulchral stones. The Castle grounds, where a Roman villa with a series of baths, flues, and drains, was laid open, are within the walls and precincts ; and the amphitheatre is just without the walls, in a field to the left of the Broadway, still telling its history and original use with sufficient clearness, even if we ignore the discovery there of numbers of small tesserae which, Mr. King thinks, cannot have formed part of a tessellated pavement, as such a work would have succumbed to the severity of British winters ; and the very curious collateral testimony of the name of a field next adjacent, and immediately opposite, the "Bear-House Field"; a name surely significant of its having been the place appropriated to the animals destined for the sports of the amphitheatre.

But the concentrated interest of Caerleon is in the Museum, and in it the inscriptions claim foremost notice. Amongst them are seeming anomalies, such as the rude, conventional palm-branch, bespeaking a Christian Roman, on a stone where the first letters are D.M. (*Divis manibus*) ; and such barbarisms of stone-cutting as *vixsit* and *vicsit*, for *vixit*. But as regards

the first, many parallels in the epigraphy of the Catacombs testify to the survival of the pagan formula for several Christian centuries ; and as to the second, no one acquainted with Britanno-Roman inscriptions will credit the engravers with having been purists as to orthography. Amongst the minor curiosities of the sepulchral stone class is the record of the age of a veteran, Julius Valens, who *centum annis vixit* ; and the problem of another inscription from the wall of the ruined bath-house near Caerleon, which was a puzzle to antiquaries for years, was solved in the space of a few weeks coincidentally by Mr. Roach Smith, Mr. Franks, and Dr. McCaul, who each and all hit upon the truth by simply turning the inscription round. There stood the centurial mark, followed by C. Julii Cæciniani ; the double *i* being used for *e*, as is common in Roman inscriptions.

But there are other inscriptions in this Museum which have supplied greater *cruces* for scholars, and led to a talent for conjecture which has borne its best fruit in the fields where it was least to be expected. Mr. Lee, the author of the excellent illustrated Catalogue, was a geologist before he took to the study of Roman remains ; but thirty years' residence in this old Roman town has naturally given a new direction to his studies. Among other things he has interpreted a couple of inscriptions which are among the most curious in the Iscan repertory. The first of these is a stone found with an inscription, in excellent preservation, at the foot of the Castle mound. The letters on it import, with but few abbreviations, and no difficulties of legibility, that

IMPERATORES VALERIANVS ET GALLIENVS AVGUSTI ET
VALERIANVS NOBILISSIMVS CAESAR COHORTIS SEPTIMAE
CENTVRIAS A SOLO RESTITVERVNT PER DESTICIVM
IVBAM VIRVM CLARISSIMVM LEGATVM
AVGVSTORVM PROPAETOREM ET VITVLASIVM
LAETINIANVM LEGATVM LEGIONIS SECUNDÆ
AVGVSTAEC CVRANTE DOMITIO POTENTINO
PRAEFECTO LEGIONIS EIVSDEM

It will be seen here that the stone commemorates some restoration or rebuilding, and that the puzzle, the solution of which ought to indicate the word referred to, is the word *centurias*. Mr. Lee was the first to divine that *centurias* here stands for the century's quarters; and though his friend, Mr. King, could find no authority for such a use of the word, both he and Dr. Hübner of Berlin regard it as the only interpretation which gives sense to the inscription. It records the restoration of the barracks of the seventh cohort. But what is still more interesting is the corroboration adduced by Dr. McCaul of Trinity College, Toronto (the author of a work on Roman epigraphy as found in the Catacombs), in the second oration of Cicero, *De Lege Agraria*, in the thirteenth chapter of which it is said of Rullus, "Deinde ornat apparitoribus, scribis librariis, proconibus, architectis, præterea mulis, tabernaculis, *centuriis*, supellectili." There the italicised word was such a puzzle to commentators that one of them (Turbinus) rang a prosaic change on *tabernaculis*, and proposed to read *tentoriis*, and Mr. George Long honestly gave it up. "There is no meaning", is his note, "in this word." But take Mr. Lee's sense of *centurias* in the inscription, and apply it here with an eye to the immediate context, and a regard to the gist of the oration in question, and we think the sense takes rank as authorised, and deserves a place in Latin dictionaries.

Another inscription, much more defaced unfortunately, and surmounted by two now very imperfect figures, has furnished food for much more conjecture. It runs somehow thus: "Fortunæ et Bono Evento Cornelius Castus et Julius Belisimus conjuges pos" . . r... Mr. King said that when he first saw this stone, the figures were less defaced than they were afterwards. Both seemed to be males, and the right hand figure had a patera in his hand, as if sacrificing. His idea is that this tablet is erected by the two persons named to their patrons, Fortune and Good Luck, on taking possession of their allotments; and an authority at

Cambridge interprets *conjuges*, which is the difficulty here, in the sense of *contubernales*, intimate friends and companions: or, as another critic puts it, "like sworn brethren of the middle ages".

We agree with Mr. Albert Way and Dr. Hübner in discrediting here this sense of *conjuges*. Mr. Lee notes that though there is no sign of the conjunction *que* after *conjuges* (which would associate the wives in their husband's dedicatory memorial), there is a chisel-mark of some abbreviation, which may be one of the *sigla* for *que*.

Another theory of two competent antiquaries is noticeable for its rashness. They take it as a sepulchral memorial by the widows to Castus and Belisimus, and refer to another Caerleon inscription to show that the names of the deceased were often put in the nominative case. But then these divinities, Fortuna and Bonus Eventus, stand at the head of the tablet, and, as Mr. Lee with some humour objects, "the difficulty of this interpretation is one which probably did not occur to these learned antiquaries. I never can believe that they would willingly have libelled the two Roman-British ladies by supposing them to have erected a monument to Fortune and Good Luck on the death of their husbands."

Here, as in other difficulties, the *deus ex machina* from Toronto comes in not unhelpfully. Dr. McCaul objects to the admission of *que* after *conjuges*, but divining vs in the final letters of the broken word now read *Belisimus*, takes them to stand for *votum suscipierunt*, and the whole to mean that the two men vowed a tablet to their deities, and that their widows piously fulfilled their vow.

In another conjectural reading of an inscription to the memory of Julia Veneria, we cannot think Dr. McCaul equally successful. Instead of reading the last words of the Bulmore inscription (F MONIME FC) as "Filius monimentum faciendum curavit", he changes the abbreviated words into *matri optimæ*,—a guess for

which an inspection of the stone and its lettering affords no warranty.

We cannot here notice the curious "Saltienus" or "Salienus" inscription, and the light thrown on it by an altar found in Caerleon churchyard¹; and we reluctantly pass over several other discoveries due to well applied and sagacious comparison and epigraphic skill; but we must not turn our backs on Caerleon without a glance at the well arranged curiosities which add a scarcely secondary interest to the treasures it has afforded in the way of inscriptions.

A cinerary urn of red ware, and half full of burnt bones, curiously illustrates at the same time an exception to the rule of not cremating infants, and the custom of interring them within the walls, beneath the eaves or *suggrunda* or *subgrundia*.

In unglazed pottery is a noteworthy jar or vessel with a *septum*, to contain two condiments in the same vessel unmixed; and amongst lamps and implements classified therewith is a curious, fisticle shape, which turns out to be a lamp-mould; which is the more remarkable as such moulds are most rare in Britain.

Amidst the glass objects will be found a marvelously early specimen of the lately rediscovered "pillar-moulding", which might convince the amazed patentees of the modern pattern that there is nothing new under the sun; and the beautiful enamels (especially fig. 14,

¹ The inscriptions referred to are read as follows (*Isca Silurum*, p. 8):—

On the Altar.

SALVTI REGINAE PVBLIVS SALLIENVS PVBLI FILIVS
MAECIA ET THALAMVS HADRIANVS PRAEFECTVS
LEGIONIS SECVNDAE AVGYSTAE CVM FILIIS SVIS
AMPEIANO ET LVCILIANO DONO DEDERVNT

On the Votive Tablet.

PRO SALVTE AVGYSTORVM NOSTROVM SEVERI
ET ANTONINI ET GETAE CAESARIS PVBLIVS SALTIENTVS
PVBLI FILIVS MAECIA ET THALAMVS HADRIANVS
PRAEFECTVS LEGIONIS SECVNDAE AVGYSTAE CVM AMPEIANO
ET LVCILIANO

Isca Silurum) would repay the inspection of ingenious enamellers of the present day for finish and elegance.

The bronze bell discovered near the bath in the Roman villa is brought to the notice of classical scholars by Mr. King, in connection with Martial's line (*Ep. xiv, 163, 1*), "Redde pilam : sonat aës thermarum".

Here, too, are the *styli* used for writing on waxen tablets ; the *ligulae*, which are ladles, spoons, or skimmers ; and a variety of rings, bosses, and *fibulae*.

One of the quaintest of all these curiosities is a foot-rule in bronze, unique among Roman antiquities in Britain. There is a stay at the back, turning on a pivot, with two notches on the edge to receive two studs on the opposite limb, so as to render the rule stiff, and prevent its closing when extended for use. A similar bronze *regula* has been found in a mason's shop at Pompeii.

Of the tessellated pavements the most striking is one with a labyrinthine pattern, removed to the Museum from Caerwent. It does not strike us as so beautiful as the pavements at Lydney, which is within a score of miles ; and where, if we remember right, the name of Senicianus crops up, as here also, in an inscription.

Amongst building ornaments were a number of ornamental substitutes for a parapet, about a tile's breadth apart, with a ridge-tile fastened to them behind at right angles. Similar specimens are also to be seen in the Museum at Chester. These ornaments are technically called *ante-fixa*, and are well exemplified at Caerleon. We have heard it said (and it was certainly our own impression) that the word is a stranger to Latin-English lexicons ; but we are glad to do Dr. Smith's most useful dictionaries the justice of stating that the word is there satisfactorily explained as "the little ornaments affixed to the cornice of an entablature", and that Livy (xxxiv, 4) is correctly cited as an authority for its usage.

Such is but a slight and hasty survey of the many Roman relics stored up at Caerleon ; an invaluable re-

pertory which all young scholars who desire to add life and reality to their classical reading will find worth a visit, especially if they can couple with it Caerwent and the remains (if they can take them in the same route) of Lydney and Cirencester.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE DOCUMENT.—II.

THE occasion and the terms of the alliance made between Griffin ap Wenwynwyn, lord of Powys, and Llewelyn ap Griffith, Prince of Wales, of which this record treats, are given in an article by Canon Bridgeman on "The Princes of Upper Powys", which appeared first in *Collectanea Archaeologica* (1862), and was reprinted in the first volume of the *Montgomeryshire Collections* (pp. 1-194).

It appears that whilst the Lord Griffin was in alliance with the English, the Prince Llewelyn, with others, had in 1256 entered his territories, and subdued the whole, except the Castle of Trallwng (or Pool), a part of the Vale of Severn, and a little of Caereinion; and again, in 1259, he had driven the Lord Griffin from his territory.¹ Irritated by an adverse verdict, in which some lands in Gorddwr, which the Lord Griffin claimed for himself, were assigned to Corbet of Cause, and anxious to recover his lost territory, Griffin broke off from the English alliance, and entered into an alliance offensive and defensive with Prince Llewelyn, in the form recorded below.

On comparing this copy with that printed in *The Montgomeryshire Collections* (vol. i, pp. 117-119) from the Hengwrt MS. No. 119, we find that they not only supply each other's defects, but also represent the two copies retained respectively by the two parties of the

¹ *Mont. Coll.*, i, 29.

covenant; for in the last clause of the one here given we read, "In cuius rei testimonium *huic parti scripturæ remanenti penes dominum Griffinum Dominus Lewelinus sigillum suum fecit apponi, una cum sigillis dictorum Episcoporum et Abbatum: parti vero remanenti penes Dominum Lewelinum, sigillo domini Lewelini, sigillum Domini Griffini cum ceteris predictis sigillis est appensum"; so that we have here the Lord Griffin's copy. In the Hengwrt MS., on the other hand, we have the Prince's copy: "Huic parti scripturæ *remanenti penes dictum Lewelinum*".*

The unknown "Esconn" of the Hengwrt MS., where the concord was signed, is here shown to have been "Ystumaner", a commote in Merioneth; the chief place in which was Castell y Bere, built (according to Robert Vaughan) by Gruffydd ap Cynan, and now probably in the hands of Llewelyn, who had also a royal residence within a few miles distance, at Talybont, near Towyn.

The witnesses to the homage of the Lord Griffin are many of them identical with those whose names occur in the covenant made in A.D. 1260 between the Prince and the Bishop of Bangor.¹ But we have here not only an *Abbot* of Pool (Strata Marcella), but also Cyfnerth ap Heylyn, *Prior* of Pool. Was this simply a Prior Major elected by the monks, or was there at this time another religious foundation ("de Pola") besides the one at Strata Marcella? There evidently existed one before it. Did it survive side by side with it; and if so, for how long?

"Llanwyddelan" here takes the place of "Llanwydelas" (Llanidloes),² and is evidently the correct reading, from its situation between the Rhiew and the lost name of Clegir.

"Kiminauc", "Kyminant", "Akeymynardo", "Akeyminand",³ is difficult to identify; but as it was a limit that should distinguish between the over-lordship of Gwynedd and the independent lordship of Powys,—so

¹ *Suprà*, p. 228.

² *Mont. Coll.*, i, 30.

³ *Ibid.*, i, 30, 118.

that acquisitions “*below it, towards Salop*”, should remain to Griffin, while those *above it* were to be in the dominion of the Prince,—I would look for it somewhere on the Shropshire borders ; and I am disposed to identify it with Trefnant, one of the vills in dispute between the Lord Griffin and Thomas Corbet of Caus. If Griffin could recover it from the Marcher, he should retain it for himself, and welcome.

The readings within brackets, given below, represent the Hengwrt version.

D. R. T.

Fo. ccclvij.

T'ra p'q'm D'n's Griffinus fecit homagium.—ad p'petuam rei memoriam geste facta est hec f'nal' concordia Anno d'ni m^occ^o lxxiiij^o in vigilia Beate Lucy v'ginis apud ystmuanneyn int' Dominu' Lewelinu' fil' G. p'ncipem Wallie ex una p'te et Dominu' Griffinu' fil' Gwenwynwyn ex alt'a videlicet q'd d'c's Dominus Gryffinus spontanea voluntate sua fecit homagium p'se et heredibus suis et tactis sacrosanctis juravit fidelitatem d'c'o Domino Lewelino et heredibus suis [coram] venerabili patre d'no Ric'o Ep'o Bangor' Dominis Abbatibus de Aberconwy et de Pola frē

Folio ccclvi.¹

The Lord Griffin renders homage.—As a perpetual memorial of the transaction, this final agreement was made in the year of Our Lord 1264,² on the Vigil of St. Lucy the Virgin, at Ystumaner,³ between the Lord Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, Prince of Wales, on the one part, and the Lord Griffin ap Wenwynwyn on the other part, to wit: the said Lord Griffin of his own free will hath rendered homage for himself and his heirs, and on the Holy Gospels hath sworn fealty to the said Lord Llewelyn and his heirs, in the presence of the Venerable Father, the Lord Richard Bishop of Bangor,⁴ the Lord Abbots of Aberconwy and Pool; Brother Ieuaf of the order of Friars Preachers,⁵ Master

¹ Public Records, London.

² The year 1263 is given in the Hengwrt MS.

³ “Ystumaner” or “Estimanner”, a commote and rural deanery in the southernmost part of Merioneth, lying between Talybont and Cyfeiliog.

⁴ Richard, Bishop, 1236-67.

⁵ “I. Lector. Predic. Bangor.”, *supra*, p. 228.

Jeuf de ordine p'dicator' mag'ro Dauid Arch' Bangr' Addaf decano de Ardudwy Dauid fil' Will'i Offic' de Diffinklewid Gronon Tudur Kynewreth fil' ydeneweth Iorwerth fil' Guigmian Aniani fil' Karaudau Dauid fil' Amiany Kysnerth fil' Heylim Prior' de Pola Addaf fil' M'urith mag'ro yuone Griffino fil' Owen Anian fil' Ydnyved et multis aliis. Pro d'co autem homagio et fidelitate d'ci G. d's L. concessit et restitut eidem G. omnes t'ras et possessiones suas videlicet Keuelauc et Mauduy in t'minis suis Arwystly in t'minis suis et Cerinian et Mochnant vwchradir in t'minis suis Et wyrsoyd cum p'tinent' suis et t'minis totam t'ram int' Ryw et Helegr cum villa de Llanwyddelan D'c's vero G. et heredes sui d'cas t'ras p' metas et divisas suas de d'co Domino L. et heredibus suis iure hereditar'tenebunt et in p'petuu' possidebunt. Si v° contig'it q'd absit d'c'm G. amitt'e aliquam p'tem de t'is suis sup'd'c'is p' Gwerram d'co L. t'ras suas in integrū possidente Id'm L. d'co G. restaurabit de p'di'ta in t'ris ad p'uisionem subscripto' viro' videl' ven'abilu' p'r'm de Bangor' et de s'co Assaph' E'por' de Aberconeway et de Pola

David, Archdeacon of Bangor; Adam, Dean of Ardudwy; David ap William, Official of Dyffryn Clwyd; Grono, Tudor, and Cynwrig, sons of Ednyfed; Iorwerth ap Gwrgenau, Anian ap Caradoc, David ap Anian, Cyfnerth ap Heylyn, Prior of Pool; Adam ap Meuric (?), Master Guion, Griffith ap Owen, Anian ap Ednyfed, and many others. In consideration of the said homage and fealty of the said Griffin, the said Llewelyn has granted and restored to the aforesaid Griffin all his lands and possessions; that is to say, Cyfeiliog and Mawddwy with their bounds, Arwystli with its bounds, and Caereinion and Mochnant-Uwchr-Raiadr with their bounds, and Trawscoyd (?)¹ with its appurtenances and bounds; all the land between the Rhiew and the Clegir,² with the vill of Llanwyddelan.³ The said Griffin and his heirs shall hold the said lands, by their metes and dimensions, of the said Lord Llewelyn and his heirs of hereditary right, and shall possess them in perpetuity. But if it happen (God forbid!) that the said Griffin shall lose any part of his aforesaid lands through war, the said Llewelyn, meanwhile retaining his lands in their entirety, shall make good the loss at the provision of the undermentioned, viz., the Venerable Fathers the Bishops of Bangor and St. Asaph, the Abbots of Aberconwy

¹ This may, from the context, represent Mechain-is-coed.

² "Hlegir" (Clegyr). This name is lost. Probably it is one of the streams south of Llanwyddelan village.

³ This, and not Llanidloes, must be the right reading.

Abbatu' Prioris fr'um Predicator' de Bangor' fratris Jeuaf eiusdem ordinis fr'um Jeuaf Coch et Jorwerth fil' Cadugun de ordine fratrum minoru' de Lanmaes Gronon Tudur Kynwreth filior' ydeheweth Jorwerth fil' Grugunau Aniani fil' Karaudauc David fil' Will'i et Kysnerth fil' Heylin. Si vero contig'it aliquem uel aliquos p'nominator' viror' dece' u'l ab'e fiat d'c'a p'uusio p' eos qui sup'stites fuerint u'l p'sentes Si u° contig'it dom' L. aliquam p'tem t'rar' suar' amitt'e p' Gwerram q'd absit sit in p'uusione d'c'or' viror' compensac'o vt'usq' p'tis dampno de p'd'c'a d'c'o G. p'ut melius pot'unt restaurar' si u° adiutorit d'o seped'c'o G. pot'it aliquas t'ras conquerere vltra metas suas A. kiminauic inferius u'sus Salop' Id'm G. et heredes sui optineant et godeant conquisisit A. Kyminant sup'ius d'c'o L. et heredib' suis remaneant conquisita si uero Gwerra u'l exe'citus d'c'i G. t'ram in vadat Gwerra u'l exe'citu d'c'm L. eod'm tempor' non molestante p'no'iatus L. succurret d'no G. p' omnibus aliis suis imposisi si maiorem habuerit necessitatem. Et si ita contig'it q'd absit q'd d'c's G. castrum suum de Pola p' Gwerram amiserit ad p'uusio-

and Pool, the Prior of the Friars Preachers of Bangor, Brother Ieuaf of the same order of Preachers, Ieuaf Coch, and Iorwerth ap Cadwgan of the order of Friars Minors of Llanfaes; Grono, Tudor, and Cynwrig, sons of Ednyfed; Iorwerth ap Gwrgenew, Anian ap Caradoc, David ap William, and Cyfnerth ap Heylin. And if it happen that any one or more of the aforesigned should be dead or absent, let the said provision be made by those who survive and be present. But if it happen that the Lord Llewelyn should lose any part of his lands through war (which God forbid!), then in the provision of the aforesigned men, let compensation be made for the loss of both parties, as they may both best be restored. But if with the aid of the Lord aforesaid, Griffin succeed in acquiring any lands beyond his boundaries from Kiminant¹ (?) downwards towards Shrewsbury, then Griffin and his heirs shall retain and enjoy their acquisitions; but from Kyminant upwards the acquisitions shall belong to Llewelyn and his heirs. But if war or any army invade the territory of the said Griffin, and neither the one nor the other molest the said Llewelyn at the time, the aforesaid Llewelyn shall come to the help of the said Griffin before all other of his subjects, if he have a greater need. And if it should happen (may it never be) that the said Griffin should lose his Castle of Pool through war,

¹ Probably Trefnant, on the boundary of the county, on the old road from Welsh Pool to Shrewsbury, and on the border of the territory in dispute between Griffin and Corbet of Canes.

nem sup' scriptor' viror' dict' L. assignabit eid'm G. aliud Castrum vbi possit res et familiam custodire secure donec castru' suu' recuperau't. Omnes vero infiodari [infeodati?] per bone memorie p'ncipem Lewlinu v'l p' Dauid filiu' suu' aut p' ip'm G. h'eant t'ras suas et quiete possideant nisi in posterum deliquerint cont'a d'c'm G. vt m'ito debeat d'cis t'ris p'uari. De omnibus vero terris et possessionib' a d'no L. quibuscu'q' collatis in d'no d'c'i G. sit in voluntati ip'ius u'l ip'as t'ras auferre u'l concedere possidentibus, Dominus vero Madoc' fil' Gwenwynwyn commotu' de Mauduy q' ad vix' in capite tenebit de d'c'o G. et heredibus suis. Si vero contig'it d'c'm G. accusari penes d'n'm L. sup' aliquo acto' L. non magnificabit d'cam accusac'onem nisi manifeste possit p'bari. Si v' p'bata fu'it faciat condingnam emendam ad arbitrium p'd'c'or' viror' saluis sibi t'ris et possessio'nis suis sine corporis sui incarcerac'one et ostasis [hostagio?] du' modo satisfac'e pot'it et volu'it. Si u' accusac'o contra d'c'm G. p'po'ita ad plenu' p'bari no' pot'it d'c's L. animadu'tet in accusatorem secund'm quantitatatem delicti et in'urie vt que d'no satisfaciendo. Nouo' v' d'no [Neuter vero dominino-

then, at the provision of the above written jurors, the said Llewelyn shall assign to Griffin another castle where he may safeguard his property and family until he shall recover his own castle. All those, however, who may have been enfeoffed by Prince Llewelyn of good memory, or David his son, or by Griffin himself, shall keep and quietly possess their lands, unless they shall have subsequently transgressed against the said Griffin, or be deservedly deprived of them. But concerning all the lands and possessions conferred by Llewelyn upon any persons within the lordship of Griffin, it should be at his (Griffin's) option either to take them away or confirm them to those in possession; save that the Lord Madoc, son of Gwenwynwyn, shall hold the commote of Mawddwy *in capite* as long as he lives. And if it should happen that the said Griffin should be accused of any misdeed before the Prince, the said Prince shall not attach weight to such accusation unless it can be clearly proved; and if it be proved, then he shall make suitable amends on the verdict of the aforesaid jurors, but without loss of lands or possessions, and without personal imprisonment or hostage, provided he be able and willing to render satisfaction. And if the charge brought forward against the said Griffin cannot be fully proved, the said Llewelyn shall punish the accuser according to the extent of the crime and injury, to the satisfaction of both lords. Neither, however, of them shall receive or protect an

rum] L. G. receptabit vel defendet contra reliq'm delinquen-
tem. Dictus v' G. cum toto [posse suo defendet] et succurret
t'ris et possessionibus d'c'i L. vicinis et a d'c'o L. remotis
quotiens nec'ce habuerint t'ra sua sine hostili incursu existente
Homines vero d'c'ar' terrar' uice uersa [tenentur terris
dicti] d'n'i G. simili modo succurrer'. D'c's vero G. tenet' venire
in exercitu' cu' d'no L. quociens ab eo fu'it requisitus nisi hos-
tilis incursus sue t're tunc immineat manifeste sc' ip' [uterque]
v' d'co' domino' L. et G. fidel' adiunctum se tenebit Ita q'd
sint vniu' Gwerre et vniu' pacis et nullis se confederabit alter
sine al' Quicq' v° heres [homines] de powys quamdiu fue'int
in d'n'o d'c'i L. deliquerunt cont' dom' G. Id'm G. total'r eis
condonauit et remisit. Ad plenam v' p'sc'ptor' fidem et secu-
ritatem suprad'c'i L. et G. supposu'unt se et heredes suos Juris-
dicc'oni ven'abilium Patrum de Bango' et de sancto Assaph'
Ep'or' neconon et de Aberconewey et de pola Abbatu qui p' temp'e
fu'int ipsis in se d'c'am iurisdic'onem assum'tibus q'd possint
coniunctim et diuisim p'mulgare sentenciam exco'icac'onis in
p'sonas d'cor' L. et G. et heredum suor' et int'd'ci in t'ras eor'd'm

offender against the other. The said Griffin, moreover, shall defend with all his power, and come to the support of, the territories and possessions of the said Llewelyn, whether near at hand or at a distance off, as often as may be necessary, provided his own territory is free from hostile invasion; and the men of the said territories are in their own turn bound in like manner to succour the territories of the said Llewelyn. The said Griffin, moreover, is bound to go into the field with the Lord Llewelyn as often as he shall be required by him, provided no hostile invasion be clearly threatening his land. Each of the two Lords also, Llewelyn and Griffin, bind themselves mutually and loyally to have but one war and one peace between them, and that neither of them, without the other, will ally himself with any third party. Whatever wrong the men of Powys, whilst in the dominion of the said Llewelyn, may have been guilty of against Griffin, the said Griffin has fully condoned and forgiven. In order to the full and true fulfilment of the aforesaid conditions, the aforesaid Llewelyn and Griffin have submitted themselves and their heirs to the jurisdiction of the Venerable Fathers, the Bishops of Bangor and St. Asaph, and of the Abbots of Aberconway and Pool, for the time being, taking on themselves the said jurisdiction, jointly and severally to pronounce sentence of excommunication upon the persons of the said Llewelyn and Griffith and their heirs, and of interdict on their

si cont' aliq' de dictis articulis venire p'sumpserint Renunci-
ant et d'c'i L. et. G. p' se et heredibus suis om'i appellac'o'i im-
pet'coni Cauellac'oni et omni remedio iur' Canonici u'l Ciuil
cont' d'c'as sentencias exco'icac'onis uel int' d'c'i ualitur' D'ci v'
Ep'i et abbates ad petic'onem p'tis d'c'as conuenc'ones obs'uanti-
tis tenentur coniunctim et diu'sim d'c'as sententias p'mulgare
et e'd'm execuc'oni demandare Cont' p'tem a d'c'is conuenc'o-
nibus resiliente In cuiu' rei testimoniu' huic p'ti script'e remanent
penes d'n'm G. D'm'us L. sigillu' su'm fecit apponi vna
cum sigillis d'c'or' Ep'or' et Abbatum p'ti vero remanenti penes
d'n'm L. sigill' d'ni L. sigill' d'ni G. cum cet'is p'd'c'is sigill' est
appensum.

lands, if they presume to contravene aught of the said articles. The said Llewelyn and Griffin, moreover, renounce for themselves and their heirs all appeal, entreaty, complaint, and all remedy, whether of civil or canon law, against the validity of the said sentences of excommunication or interdict. The said Bishops and Abbots, moreover, are bound, on the petition of the party observing the said terms of agreement, both jointly and severally, to proclaim the said sentences, and to demand their fulfilment against the party who may reject them. In witness whereof the Lord Llewelyn has caused his seal, together with the seals of the said Bishops and Abbots, to be appended to this part of the Record, which is to be kept by the Lord Griffin; while to the part to be kept by the Lord Llewelyn, the seal of the Lord Griffin is appended, with the other aforesaid seals, to the seal of the Lord Llewelyn.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIA CAMBRENSIS.

THE CAERGAI STONE.

SIR,—In the description of the Roman tombstone found at Caergai, in the last Number of the *Arch. Camb.*, p. 203, there is a slight error in my reading of the inscription, which I gave as "*Julius Gaveronis Filius, Fe[cerunt] mil[ites] cohortis I Nerviorum*", or, translated, "Julius, the son of Gavero. The soldiers of the first cohort of the Nervii have made [this]." This reading I gave on the first discovery of the stone, in *The Academy* for 4th April last, remarking on the singular position of *Fe*, and the fact that the stone is the first memorial of the first cohort of the Nervii found in Britain.

Yours, etc.,

Liverpool. 1885.

W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

RAMBLES OVER THE DENBIGHSHIRE HILLS.

No. I.

SIR,—The writer had arranged with Mr. Robert Roberts, Clocae-nog, to accompany him in a ramble over the hills to the west of Ruthin; but the day fixed upon, August 27th, turned out to be a wet day. Still the journey was undertaken, and much curious information, or folk-lore, was collected; and in this letter I will relate what we saw and heard.

My companion is a native of Bala; but his vocation has made him acquainted with other people and places than those that were or are in the neighbourhood of the place of his birth. He has walked over most of the hills in West Denbighshire, and he has visited most of the farmers that live along those hills; and he is well known for many miles around the village of Clocae-nog, which is about four miles distant from Ruthin. He has read Welsh poetry, and the literature of his native country he is not ignorant of, nor is he an unbeliever in the traditions of the people. He has mastered English, and the few books that he has in this language he has carefully read. Such was my agreeable fellow traveller.

We were to meet each other, at 9.30 A.M., at a hamlet called Clawdd Newydd, or the New Dike. This place we did not explore, but we proceeded for about three miles along the road that leads to Cerrigydruddion from Ruthin, until we came to a bridge called Pont Petruel, which spans the river Clwyd. The river here is a small rivulet, a mere mountain brook. It looked to-day quiet and

harmless ; but when swollen by wintry floods it rushes along with almost irresistible force, and roaring and foaming, it then engulfs any stray sheep, or even larger and stronger animals, that it overtakes. A proof of its power is given in the remains of a bridge a few yards lower down than the present bridge, that tradition says was swept away by a mighty flood. We leave the bridge and go to a house called Bodrual, a small farm reclaimed from the mountain, and here trap and pony are left.

The rain continued coming down, and to make the time pass away quickly and agreeably, the writer introduced subjects of conversation which he knew country people often talk about. Seated around the fire, for no out-door work could be done, because of the rain (and it may here be said, by way of a passing remark, that wet days are capital times to visit upland farms on folk-lore expeditions, as then time hangs heavily on the farmers' hands), the conversation commenced on the subject of "corpse-candles". A couple of tales on this subject I shall now relate.

A Corpse-Candle.—John Roberts of Pentre, near Felin y Wig, a hamlet a few miles off, was, the narrator of the tale said, in the habit of sitting up after his family had retired to rest, to smoke a quiet pipe ; and the last thing he did, before going to bed, was to take a peep into the night to ascertain the state of the weather. One night, while peering about, he saw in the far distance a light in a place where no house was, and upon observing it intently he ascertained that the light was moving slowly along the road leading from Bettws G. G. to Felin y Wig. Where the road dipped, the light disappeared, but only to reappear again in such parts of the road as were visible from John Roberts' house. It was so late, and so unusual an occurrence for a man with a lantern to travel on that road, that John Roberts continued watching with considerable curiosity the course taken by the light. It passed Felin y Wig, and took the road towards Bodrual ; and then, when it arrived at the gate, it turned towards Pentre, Jones' abode, and came slowly along, and evidently its destination was John Roberts' house. Jones could not hear footsteps as the light approached, nor could he detect anybody carrying the light ; he therefore, in considerable fear, entered the house, closed the door, and seated himself with much dread by the fire, awaiting the approach of the light towards the house. To his horror, the light passed through the shut door, and then gradually approached the place occupied by Jones, and then it ascended to the floor above the kitchen, and after quivering in a certain spot awhile it vanished.

Jones, when he recovered the use of his limbs, retired to rest for the night ; but, singularly enough, the servant-man was found dead in his bed, which was over the very spot where the light disappeared.

This strange appearance, I was told, took place not many years ago. I do not know what I shall call the next tale ; but it is a kind of apparition. I will relate it just as I heard it. Mr. Roberts related this tale, which I will call—

A Dead Man appearing to his Mother.—Two men, who were friends, and visited together two young women who lived in the same farm, were returning together, from one of their visits, over a spur of the Arenig Mountains, in the early morn ; and as their homes lay in different directions, they separated on the wild mountain, each making for his house. One arrived at home in due time ; but the other did not. Inquiry was made after the missing man from his friend ; but all the information that this friend could give was that they had parted at a certain spot on the mountain. It was therefore surmised that the man had lost his way, wandered along the mountain, and perhaps fallen over a precipice. All the neighbours, consequently, formed themselves into a search-party, and with forebodings proceeded to the mountain. They returned, however, as night approached, worn out with their journeys, but without having come upon any traces of the lost man. The next and the next day the search was continued ; but all to no purpose, and so the search was given up ; but the following night the mother of the missing man saw her truant son looking through the window at her. She immediately remonstrated with him for playing tricks with them, and bade him come at once to supper. But there was no response to her words. She now went to the door, expecting to see her son ; but no,—he was not to be seen ; but turning her head towards the mountain, the poor woman observed a strong light resting on a certain spot on the Arenig Mountains, and she was convinced that there her son was to be found. The neighbours, the following day, proceeded to that spot which the mother indicated, and there they discovered the body of the young man, who evidently had lost his way, and having fallen over a precipice was killed.

Several other similar tales were related ; but I have no doubt I have recorded a sufficient number, so I will now describe a wonderful well which is in the neighbourhood of Bodrual. This well is called "Ffynnon y Fuwch Frech" (the Speckled Cow's Well).

The Speckled Cow's Well.—The well stands in a *friidd*, by a wall, and it is in a very neglected state. A few stones surround it, but it is overgrown with grass, and presents the appearance of a simple mountain spring. However, tradition says that in remote times a wonderful cow quenched her thirst in this now forsaken well, and gave a name to it, for it is called after her, "Ffynnon y Fuwch Frech".

Thomas Jones (Cefn Bannog), who occupies a small mountain-farm close to the well, gave me the following particulars respecting this cow. She gave milk willingly and copiously to every one who milked her, and this she continuued doing until she was milked into a riddle, when she immediately left the country, and her offspring also followed her. Two of her children made for a lake, Thomas Jones said, called after them "Llyn dan Ychain" (the Lake of the two Oxen), in the parish of Carregydrudion ; and it is related of these "dan eidion Bannog", as Jones called them, that they went one on each side of the lake, and, bellowing as if the one was calling the other, they entered the lake and disappeared.

This famous cow was the mother, Jones said, of all the "ychain Bannog"; and it is certain that after her the places on the hill-side were called by the names they still retain. Thus there is a pathway (now unused) that led from the well to the "Preseb y Fwch Frech", of which traces are left to this day. It was along this path the cow went from her crib when she wanted water. The road or pathway is about a hundred yards from the cowhouse. Here, again, there is another pathway from the cowhouse to the pasture of the cow, called even now "Waen Bannog"; and close to there is a spot called "Gwal Erw y Fwch Frech", and the side of the hill is named "Cefn Bannog".

All these names give to the tradition a reality that otherwise it would not possess; and the few inhabitants of these upland farms implicitly believe in the existence, in years long gone by, of this cow; and the wanton behaviour of the thoughtless milker conveys to them a warning, and teaches them not to waste even what they want not. They know not that in Derbyshire and Shropshire a like tale is current; and were they to be told that those counties had a cow like their own, it would not destroy their faith in the existence of their speckled cow.

E. O.

Reviews.

THE HISTORY OF THE LITERATURE OF WALES FROM THE YEAR 1300 TO THE YEAR 1650. By CHARLES WILKINS, Ph.D., Member of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, and Local Secretary for Glamorgan of the Cambrian Archaeological Association. Cardiff: Daniel Owen and Company, Limited. 1884.

No one who has not dug deeply beneath the surface can have any adequate idea of the amount of material which is available in print and manuscript, in poetry and prose, for the historian of the literature of Wales. But it is not only the quantity of matter, but rather the difficulty of unravelling the exact meaning of the highly alliterative and often obscure involutions in which the earlier poems abound (thanks to the requirements of the "cynghanedd"), that render the historian's task both difficult and delicate; and it is, therefore, not of necessity any derogation to those who have hitherto attempted it (the present work included) to say that the historian of the literature of that period has not yet appeared.

Mr. Wilkins' book partakes of the character of a compilation rather than a history, and its chief merit, in our opinion, is that it has brought together a considerable amount of information upon the subject which was previously dispersed in many quarters, and notably in the Iolo MSS., *The Cambrian Register*, *The Cambro-*

Briton, The Archaeologia Cambrensis, and monographs on the works of Lewis Glyn Cothi and other bards. Where these have not led the way, no new ground appears to have been ventured on; and, indeed, the whole looks more like second-hand knowledge than the result of any original study. The treatment, too, is exceedingly uneven; writings already fairly well known are copiously refurbished, and authors of whom we should like to know more are simply named, with an index to their poems, as if a catalogue only were had in view. We are sorry to say, too, that the book is disfigured, more than any other we remember to have read for years, by slovenliness of style and an abundance of printer's errors, as if it had not been thought worth while to correct the proof-sheets. P. 2, e.g., of five of the productions of Llygad Gwr, "one is an ode to Gruffydd Moelawr (*sic*); *second*, to Llewelyn; *third*," etc. P. 3, again, "Einion ap Gwgan" (should be Gwgawn) is another of the early list of poets. One of his (*sic*), an address", etc. P. 14, "Hillyn.....a poet of eminent quality. Two of his addressed to".... But this is of continual recurrence. On the same page we are told that "of Iorwerth Llwyd there are no remains", whereas the *Myvyrarian Archaiology* contains an ode by him to Hopcyn Thomas. Part of the bardic names is made to do duty for the whole, as if a surname. Thus we have frequently Benfras, Grug, ab Gwilym, Glyn Cothi, Hiraddug. Sometimes the Christian name is inserted, with such a result as "Huw Ceirioq" for Huw Morris, "Eos Ceirioq"; or it is put alone, as "Llywarch", as if there were only one of that name. "Dafydd Llwyd Aber Tarad" (p. 81) becomes on p. 86, "Davydd Llwyd of Glan Tanad". The Abbey of Valle Crucis was "one of the first to be abolished *tempo. (sic)* Henry VIII" (p. 83). Ievan Tew "was an eminent poet of Arwystli" (p. 100). The translation of Davydd ap Gwilym's ode to May (p. 40) is ascribed to "O. Jones, 1797". It was really the work of Arthur James Johnes, as well as the one to "The Summer", and both are included in the "Translations" of his poems published by Hooper (London, 1834). When Mr. Wilkins tells us (p. 80) that David Vychan "was known as Sir David Vychan, being a bard as well as clergyman; and it was the custom, in such cases of twofold significance, so to distinguish", he transposes the order of clergyman and bard, and does not appear to understand that the title "Sir" does not indicate either one or both together as such, but only that the bearer was a "Dominus", i.e., a graduate of a University. But what does he mean when he says that "the mention of Hywel Swrdwal and his degree of M.A. yields us one of the earliest indications we have of the preference indicated by Welshmen for Jesus College, Oxford? He figured from 1430 to 1460." When does he think that the College was founded?

But we pass on to the sixteenth century, and the writers in prose; and we turn first to the accounts of William Salesbury and Bishop Morgan as the translators of the New and Old Testaments respectively, and we find them hopelessly mixed up. Thus, p. 176, of the

former we are told that "this important undertaking (the New Testament) was, with little exception, done by himself alone (*i.e.*, William Salesbury), Bishop Morgan aiding in the Epistles that follow those to the Thessalonians, Salesbury doing the Second Epistle to Timothy and the Epistle to Philemon, and Thomas Huet the Book of Revelations. Dr. Davies prefixed to it an address to the Welsh." Now it was not Bishop Morgan, but Bishop Richard Davies who assisted Salesbury; and it was he who wrote the address prefixed to the New Testament. Dr. William Morgan was not "the coadjutor" of Salesbury; and the Bishop whom Dr. Davies (for Dr. John Davies is the one best known by that name) assisted was Parry, whose chaplain he was, in the revision of 1620.

We turn next to a writer of a different type, Vavasor Powell, and we are told that "most of his works pass beyond the limit of the time devoted to this essay, and nearly all were acrimonious rejoinders, such as *Strena Vavasoriensis*,—a hue and crie after Mr. Vavasor Powell, metropolitan of the itinerants, which his vigorous attacks elicited." Evidently, according to this, Mr. Wilkins must have supposed the *Strena Vavasoriensis* to have been one of the "acrimonious rejoinders" of Vavasor Powell, whereas it was the work of Alexander Griffith, whom he does not even mention. Another Griffith (not Griffiths), George, D.D. (p. 242), we read, "accomplished in part a translation of the Common Prayer into Welsh." What he really did was to compile "The Service for Adult Baptism", first of all, in *English*, to meet the new requirements of those days of anti-pædo-baptism.

Turning once again to the poets of this period, we have, on p. 193, a brief account of "Hugh Ceiriog", who flourished up to 1620, and is recorded as the domestic bard of Moeliyrch" (should be Moel-iwrch), and so on; and then, pp. 248-256, an elaborate account of "Huw Morus" and his works,—in happy innocence that the two bards were one and the same, *viz.*, Huw Morus of Ponty whole, in Glyn Ceiriog, best known as "Eos Ceiriog".

Only one more instance, and we have done. The list of 361 MSS. at Hengwrt ends thus, "bequeathed to Sir Watkin W. E. Wynne by Vaughan, his kinsman"; and in the next sentence follows, "the late W. W. E. Wynne, writing to the *Arch. Camb.*, October" (*sic*, no reference, which, however, we have by this time got used to), "pays the best testimony", etc. But would any one suppose from this that it was to the late Mr. W. W. E. Wynne (not Sir Watkin) that they were bequeathed? Or understand that they now form an important part of the invaluable Peniarth collection?

We fear we must close this notice with a warning that the *History of the Literature of Wales* is neither worthy of the title, nor to be altogether trusted for its accuracy.

A HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS IN NORTH WALES. Fifth Edition.
Revised. With Travelling Maps, etc. London: John Murray,
Albemarle Street. 1885.

TEN years have elapsed since the fourth edition of this most serviceable *Handbook* was noticed in a very complimentary paragraph in the Annual Report of the Association read at Wrexham, and subsequent use has fully confirmed the high estimate then re-affirmed of its excellence. It is rather the changes that have been necessitated by the opening out of new railways, than any defects in that edition, that have led Mr. Murray to publish a fifth edition rather than reprint the former one. Indeed, in some respects, and from an antiquarian point of view, we think the fourth edition the more valuable, as being more full and minute in the description of objects of archaeological interest; but travellers who desire to see within the allotted holiday, and in the most convenient manner, whether by conveyance or on foot, the chief objects of interest, the finest views, the best lines of road to take, the pleasantest quarters to rest, and at the same time to know a good deal about the places they pass through, will find many little advantages in this fifth edition. The first of these (and it strikes one at once on opening the book) is the introduction of new maps; and we specially like those of the Snowdon and Cader Idris districts, as well for their effectiveness as for their accuracy. We observe also, throughout, greater accuracy and system in the spelling of Welsh names,—a matter of no little importance with respect to a country where so many names are apparently similar, and a slight variation in the lettering may make a vast difference in the utility of the *Handbook*. But even here we do occasionally fall in with a word that has escaped the reviser's pen. Upon the whole, however, and in the face of many competitors for favour, we know of no other book that can compare with this one for accuracy of information, completeness of matter, and handiness for use, and we therefore commend it heartily to the notice of all travellers in North Wales.

Literary Notices.

IN *The Town, Fields, and Folk of Wrexham in the Time of James I*, Mr. A. N. Palmer has shown how useful and interesting for local history such dry details as those given in Norden's "Survey of the Lordship of Bromfield and Yale", made in 1620, and printed as "Original Documents" in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* (1871-77), may be made. The "Survey", which is mostly in Latin,—and, if we remember rightly, gave umbrage to some of our members at the time,—contains, nevertheless, a list of the demesnes, freeholds, and

leaseholds of the lordship, together with the rents due therefrom to the Prince (Charles of Wales); and as the names of the tenants are also given, and the nature of their several holdings, and frequently also the names of the fields they held, and the situation of their houses described, a large amount of curious information lies scattered through its pages. Upon these Mr. Palmer has brought to bear not only a minute local knowledge, but also a patient and laborious research into local documents of many kinds, civil and ecclesiastical, with a result that presents to us the old town, with its chief features and its inhabitants, as it was two and a half centuries ago; and we have only to follow him as our guide through one street after another, to have pointed out to us not the mere names, but the chief historical and municipal events with which they have been connected.

We are glad to know that this pamphlet is to be followed up by others on the history of the town and parish, of which a prospectus accompanied the last issue of our Journal, and in the carrying out of which we wish Mr. Palmer the support and success which his instalment justifies.

A History of Early Pembrokeshire, by Mr. Edw. Laws, our General Secretary for South Wales, we are glad to announce is now ready for the press. In the treatment of that battlefield of many races, the volumes of the *Archæologia Cambrensis* contain a vast amount of helpful information, and nothing can be more satisfactory to our Association than to find it utilised for a county history. We wish that every other county in the Principality may be equally fortunate in finding some member to take up its history. The work will be copiously illustrated, and is to be printed and published by Mason of Tenby.

We have also much satisfaction in learning that not only the *Glamorgan Pedigrees*, to which we referred in the volume for last year, but also another volume containing a collection of the *Early Charters relating to the County*, are both all but completed. Everything that comes from the pen of Mr. G. T. Clark we know will be both accurate and valuable, and we therefore congratulate the county of Glamorgan on this further contribution to its history.

MR. C. WILKINS informs us that he has in hand a monograph of the Tredegar family, in which is given the Welsh ancestry of Lord Salisbury from Llywelyn ap Seisyllt, A.D. 1020. Llewelyn married Angharad, daughter of Meredith ap Owen, Prince of South Wales, and is stated to have held court at Maes Essyllt, now Beaupre Castle, Glam. This Maes Essyllt was conceded to Robert Sitsyllt by Robert Fitzhamon, and by him sold to Bassett. We lose sight of Robert Sitsyllt from this time; but Richard, lord of Altyrynis, district of Ewyas Harold, on the boundary between Monmouthshire and Herefordshire, claimed descent from him; and the arms emblazoned on

the windows of the family mansion are identical with those borne by the Earls of Salisbury and Exeter.

The work, if compiled with care and accuracy, will be of interest to the antiquary. In the lengthy notice of the Tredegar family, the conspicuous members come in for fullest illustration, from Sir John Morgan, to whom Gwilym Tew indited the ode printed in the *Arch. Camb.* for 1884 (p. 35), to Thomas Morgan who leased the whole of the Dowlaïs mineral district for £26 *per annum*! The work is dedicated, by special permission, to the Marquis of Salisbury.

MR. WILKINS also proposes to publish, as a memento of the Marquis of Salisbury's visit to Newport, the speeches delivered on the occasion, prefaced by a history and description of the town of Newport, and accompanied by biographies and portraits of the principal notabilities of the occasion.

Cambrian Archaeological Association.

THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

WAS HELD AT

NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE,

ON

MONDAY, AUGUST 24TH, 1885,

AND FOUR FOLLOWING DAYS.

PRESIDENT.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD TREDEGAR.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

E. J. GRICE, Esq., High Sheriff, The Fields, Newport
THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF NEWPORT
(COLONEL LYNE)

HON. ARTHUR MORGAN, J.P.
SIR GEORGE WALKER, Bart.
SIR H. M. JACKSON, BART.
J. A. ROLLS, Esq., M.P.
E. H. CARBUTT, Esq., M.P.
OCTAVIUS MORGAN, Esq., J.P.
T. M. LLEWELLIN, Esq., J.P.

T. CORDES, Esq., J.P.
F. J. MITCHELL, Esq., J.P.
REV. W. C. BRUCE, M.A.
THOMAS GRATREX, Esq., J.P.
JOHN LAWRENCE, Esq., J.P.
E. A. LEE, Esq., J.P.
THE REV. CANON HAWKINS

LOCAL COMMITTEE.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF NEWPORT (COLONEL LYNE), *Chairman*

R. Donald Bain, Esq., Newport
Thomas Canning, Esq., Newport
R. Laybourne, Esq., The Firs, Malpas
C. Kirby, Esq., Caerau Park, Newport
A. C. Jones, Esq., The Oaks, Newport
D. Whitehouse, Esq., The Gaer, Newport
R. F. Woollett, Esq., M.D., The Mount, Newport
W. W. Morgan, Esq., M.D., Palmyra Place, Newport
A. C. Pilliner, Esq., The Grange, Llantarnam
H. Prothero, Esq., Malpas Court, Newport
Rev. F. Bedwell, Newport

Rev. F. B. Leonard, Llandeavaud, Caerleon
Rev. W. T. C. Lindsay, Llanvair Rectory, Abergavenny
Rev. W. B. Oakley, Newland, Coleford, Gloucester
Rev. J. M. Beynon, Llanvaches Rectory, Caerleon
W. S. Smyth, Esq., Rosetta, Stow Park, Newport
Major A. E. L. Lowe, F.S.A., Shirenewton Hall
T. H. Thomas, Esq., 45, The Walk, Cardiff
H. J. Parnall, Esq., Newport
J. W. Jones, Esq., Blaenpant, Newport

G. W. Nichol, Esq., The Ham, Cowbridge	Rev. H. R. Roderick, Bassaleg, near Newport
W. N. Johns, Esq., Newport	W. G. Rees, Esq., Holly House, ditto
A. J. Stevens, Esq., Newport	J. D. Pain, Esq., Christchurch, ditto
Rev. A. Wilkins, Newport	A. G. Thomas, Esq., M.D., Newport
C. W. E. Marsh, Esq., St. Helen's, Newport	J. A. Morris, Esq., M.D., Caerleon
	G. L. Hiley, Esq., Gilwern, Abergavenny

Local Treasurer.

E. W. Willey, Esq., National Bank of Wales, Newport

Local Secretary.

T. D. Roberts, Esq., Newport.

REPORT OF MEETING.**MONDAY, AUGUST 24.**

THROUGH the courtesy of the Mayor and Corporation, the meetings of the Association were held in the rooms of the handsome new Town Hall, which had only been declared open with due civic ceremonial in the course of the afternoon. The Inaugural Meeting was thus the first public one to be held within its walls.

After the necessary preliminary business of the Association had been transacted, the Members of the Committee proceeded at half-past eight to the Town Hall, where a goodly company had already assembled. Owing to the death of their late President, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, Bart., M.P., and the resignation of their Chairman of Committee, Canon Thomas stated that their first duty was to appoint a temporary chairman, and he had very great pleasure in proposing the name of one who was not only a veteran archaeologist, but had on a former visit to the county acted as their President, and was still one of their Vice-Presidents and Trustees, as well as being President of the Monmouthshire and Caerleon sister Association, in whose welcome and co-operation they greatly rejoiced—Mr. C. Octavins S. Morgan, F.R.S., V.P.S.A. This was seconded by Professor Rhys, and carried unanimously. Mr. C. O. S. Morgan, on taking the chair, said that he had a light and pleasant office to fill: pleasant, because he had long taken great interest in the Association and its work; light, because he had only to call on the President-Elect, the Right Hon. Lord Tredegar, to take possession of it and enter on his duties as actual President for the year.

Lord Tredegar began by thanking the Association for the high honour they had conferred upon him in making him their President,

and then spoke in feeling terms of his predecessor in that chair, the late Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, whose death was mourned not only by the Association, but, he would add, by all Wales, and not least by himself, as an old and intimate friend; for his simple life and amiable character were worthy of his great name and his extensive wealth. Turning to the programme, he felt inclined to object to the language of the paragraph which stated that he would "deliver an inaugural address", as such an expression might be supposed to imply a long and deep acquaintance with archaeology, a claim he could by no means venture to make. Still, no one could have lived long in such a county as Monmouth, and fail to imbibe some of the spirit of the science; indeed, he had long had a liking for archaeological study, and had often followed the course of their local history through the Silurian, Roman, Saxon, and Norman periods to the present day. He might, it is true, have compiled, out of the writers on their county history, a striking and stirring address; but some ladies and gentlemen present might have said, "We know all that", and others might have added, "That is all out of Coxe's book, and we can prove it all wrong." For there was a sort of feeling about archaeologists, that they were very fond of upsetting cherished notions, and dispelling the halo of veneration that often attached to places; he would, therefore, rather wait and see what new light the Association might throw on their antiquities. One thing, however, in connection with Caerleon he hoped they would not destroy, and that was its association with King Arthur and the Knights of his Round Table, which he had been brought up to believe in. He had recently been reading a history of Newmarket, in which the writer had attributed the origin of horse-racing to the Romans, and had stated that there was a race-course at Caerleon. He hoped that Mr. Mitchell, who knew the antiquities of the place well, would be able to tell them where it was. Among the numerous Roman remains preserved in the Museum at Caerleon, they would see a very interesting stone, which had been discovered in 1878 in the old sea wall on the Caldecot Level, and had solved the question of the draining of those marshes by the Romans. The inscription upon it ran thus:

COH I
O STATORI
M-M I

The last line was not quite complete, as there were faint traces of other letters, but it showed that the "First Cohort of the Centurion Statorius built so many paces (one or two miles) of the wall.¹ In an able paper read at the meeting of the British Archaeological Association at Brighton, mention was made of a line of camps from Chepstow to Cardiff, which were stated to be Roman, and used

¹ For an account of this find, see "Goldcliff and the Ancient Roman Inscribed Stone found there", by Mr. Octavius Morgan, F.R.S., F.S.A., President, in the *Transactions of the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association*, 1882.

some for defence and some for exercise. He looked forward with interest to see what the Members of the Cambrian Archæological Association would say about them.

Canon Thomas, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President for his address, said that although his lordship had modestly disclaimed any deep knowledge of archæology, he had given evidence of a spirit which was dear to antiquaries. They, too, came more or less as learners, and were often chary of expressing an opinion, from a mere casual visit, of what they only saw in passing. They knew that, though there were general types that belonged, roughly speaking, to special periods, yet, inasmuch as one generation frequently copied another in its architecture and method, their opinions were continually liable to be corrected by local records; and one advantage of these meetings was that they drew attention to these points, and often brought unthought-of matters to light. They only wished to overthrow existing notions, where they could be fairly shown to be untenable. He did not think any of them would wish to disconnect Arthur from Caerleon.

Professor Rhys, in seconding the vote, quite sympathised with his lordship in deprecating all attempts to sever Arthur's name from that of Caerleon. This had been suggested in favour of Southern Scotland, of Cornwall, and of Brittany. It was partly in consequence of the topography of those districts; but on that score Wales and Monmouthshire had quite as good a claim, and in his opinion even a better one. It was, however, quite enough to let those claims neutralise one another, the fact being that Arthur belonged to all the Brythonic Celts from the Clyde to the Loire. Those who would locate King Arthur exclusively in Southern Scotland, in Wales, in Cornwall, or in Brittany, cannot be said to understand the question. The whole subject of the history and position of King Arthur was, it could not be denied, a very difficult one. He had lately been trying to study it, as he could not pass over it in silence in his Hibbert Lectures.

The President then called upon Mr. Laws, the General Secretary for South Wales, to read the Annual Report.

"REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1885."

"At this, its fortieth anniversary, the Association meets for the first time in its history without an actual President. Those who were present last year at Bala will remember with what physical suffering, and at what personal inconvenience, the late Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn attended our opening meeting there, and joined in our excursion to Caergai; we desire, then, to take the first opportunity of testifying to our sense of the loss which we feel, in common with almost every other institution for the promotion of the interests—literary, social, and philanthropic—of the northern portion of the Principality, which always found in him a willing and genial supporter. We welcome, however, into his chair to-day, the worthy representative of the ancient lords of Tredegar.

"We are glad, moreover, to think that this, our fortieth Annual Meeting, promises to be in no respect behind the most attractive of its predecessors in its programme of places to be visited. The ethnographical history of the district opens up in succession Silurian, Roman, British, Saxon, Danish, and Norman questions. Its antiquarian remains are singularly rich in Roman stations, no fewer than five being embraced within the limits of the county, viz., Blestium, Burrium, Gobannium, Isca Silurum, and Venta Silurum; and of these, three are included in our programme. British earthworks abound in all directions; and medieval castles, such as Caerphilly, and Chepstow, and Newport, and Raglan, and Usk, tell the same tale of the struggles of the men of Gwent against Saxon, Dane, and Norman, who coveted their fair and fertile plains. And when we turn to its ecclesiastical features, we shall find ourselves at one moment standing on the threshold of British Christianity at Caerleon on Usk; at another, admiring with bated breath the beauties of ruined Tintern; at another, rejoicing that St. Woollos and Chepstow, Bassaleg and Magor, Caerleon and Caerwent, still hand down from age to age the offices of prayer and praise and eucharist.

"We look forward, too, with all the more pleasure to this our visit, because coming, as many of us do, as learners in the field, as well as promoters of the spirit of archaeology, we are met at the outset with the right hand of fellowship by our sister Society, the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association; and we cordially hope that the result may prove as agreeable to them as the prospect is gratifying to ourselves.

"Since our Meeting last August, death has removed from our list of patrons, not only our late President, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, Bart., but also a former President—at Machynlleth in 1866—the Most Noble the Marquis of Londonderry, K.P.; whilst from our roll of Members there have been removed, for the same cause, the names of Mr. C. Baker, F.S.A., to whom the Association was indebted for the completion of its supplementary volume on the Survey of Gower; Dr. Barham, of Truro; Mr. Charles Allen, of Tenby; Mr. R. D. Jenkins of Cardigan; the Rev. T. W. Webb, and others, who have in different ways helped on the work of the Association.

"We have this year again to regret the loss of another of our earliest and most constant officers,—this time happily not through death, but through the necessity of well-earned rest. For nearly twenty years Professor Babington has acted as our Chairman of Committee, the onerous duties of which he has discharged with unfailing courtesy and with a breadth of knowledge on archaeological subjects which has been of great service to our Association. Into his place it is necessary, therefore, on the present occasion, to appoint a successor, and the Committee recommend for the office the Rev. Canon Thomas.

"They also recommend that Prof. Rhys be elected on the

Editorial Committee, to fill the place vacated by the Rev. E. L. Barnwell.

"To the list of Vice-Presidents they recommend the addition of the following Members :

" Prof. C. C. Babington, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A.

His Honour, Judge Wynn Ffoulkes, M.A.

Frederick Lloyd-Philipps, Esq., M.A.

John Edward Lee, Esq., F.S.A.

" Your Committee recommend further the re-election of the four retiring members, viz., Howel W. Lloyd, Esq., M.A.; J. Y. W. Lloyd, Esq., M.A.; M. C. Jones, Esq., F.S.A.; Rev. M. H. Lee, M.A., and the election of E. G. B. Phillimore, Esq.

" As Local Secretaries, to fill vacancies caused by death, removal, or withdrawal, they propose the following names :

" Carnarvonshire : Richard Luck, Esq.

Denbighshire : Rev. D. W. Evans, M.A.

Flintshire : T. Morgan Owen, Esq., M.A., H.M.I.S.

Cardiganshire : Rev. L. T. Rowland.

Radnorshire : Stephen W. Williams, Esq.

The following names are proposed for Membership :

" NORTH WALES.

" Right Hon. Lord Kenyon, Gredington, Flintshire

R. B. Bamford-Hesketh, Esq., Gwrych Castle, Abergel

John George Briscoe, Esq., Glyn Ceirrog

C. S. Mainwaring, Esq., Galltaenan, Rhyl

T. Morgan Owen, Esq., Rhyl

R. J. Ll. Price, Esq., Rhiwlas, Merioneth

Rev. J. Gwynoro Davies, Llanuwchllyn, Bala

Rev. D. Williams Evans, M.A., St. George Rectory, Abergel

Rev. R. E. Jones, M.A., Llanllwchaiarn Vicarage, Newtown

Rev. W. Vaughan Jones, B.A., Wrexham.

" SOUTH WALES.

" Peter Price, Esq., 3 Crockherbtown, Cardiff.

" ENGLAND AND THE BORDERS.

" Rev. Osborne Allen, Sherburne Vicarage, Tetsworth

Mrs. Romilly Allen

William H. Banks, Esq., Ridgebourne, Kington

J. Hight Blundell, Esq., Marlowe's Cottage, Hemel Hempstead

Chetham Library, Manchester

Thomas Canning, Esq., Newport

Cecil G. S. Foljambe, Esq., M.P., Cockglode, Ollerton,

Newark

Edward Owen, Esq., St. Martin's Road, Stockwell

Rev. A. H. Sayce, M.A., Dep. Prof. of Comparative Philology, Queen's Coll., Oxford.

"It will be remembered that at the Bala Meeting last year, it was resolved that an Index of the thirty-eight volumes forming the first four series of the *Archaeologia Cambrensis* should be prepared, and that Canon Thomas should be asked to undertake it. Your Committee have now to announce that several volumes have been already done; but the work is a laborious one, and but few Members have as yet signified their readiness to subscribe either for the volume or to the guarantee fund for the expense and costs.

"Other works in progress by Members of the Association comprise the account of the *Old Stone Crosses of the Vale of Clwyd*, by the Rev. Elias Owen, M.A., of which two parts have been already issued. The fifth volume of the *History of the Princes of Powys Fadog*, by J. Y. W. Lloyd, Esq., of Clochfaen, is in the press. Mr. A. N. Palmer, of Wrexham, is engaged upon a series of essays to illustrate the *History of the Town and Parish of Wrexham*, and Canon the Hon. G. T. O. Bridgeman is at work upon a History of the Rectory of Wigan.

"Mr. C. Wilkins' *History of the Literature of Wales* has been for some time in the hands of subscribers, and the Rev. D. Silvan Evans's long-expected Welsh-English Dictionary is in the press.

"In closing their Report, the Committee have once more to urge upon the Members the duty of punctual payment of their subscriptions, which are due on the 1st of January in each year; and they trust that the Local Secretaries will send to the Editors a timely notice of any antiquities found in their neighbourhoods, so that the *Journal* may be not only a storehouse of information on the more important remains, but also a handy record of the smaller discoveries made from time to time throughout the Principality."

The adoption of the Report being moved by the Rev. R. Trevor Owen and seconded by Mr. Hartland, was carried unanimously.

A vote of sympathy with Lady Williams-Wynn was next proposed by Canon Thomas and seconded by Mr. Octavius Morgan, and the President was requested to convey the same to her ladyship.

The President then called upon Mr. F. J. Mitchell to read the paper on "The History and Descent of the Lordship Marcher or County of Wentllwch", prepared by Mr. Octavius Morgan, which is printed in the current number of the *Journal*.

The thanks of the Association were heartily accorded to Mr. Octavius Morgan for the same, and after a brief discussion, in which Professor Rhys, Mr. Mitchell, and others took part, the Members adjourned to another room, where the Mayor and Corporation had very courteously provided refreshments.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25.

By the 9.15 A.M. train a large party proceeded to Magor. The church has been well described by Mr. E. A. Freeman in his article on the "Architectural Antiquities of Monmouthshire" in the *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Second Series, vol. ii, p. 197, to which we are

largely indebted for the present notice, and from which we reproduce the accompanying view.



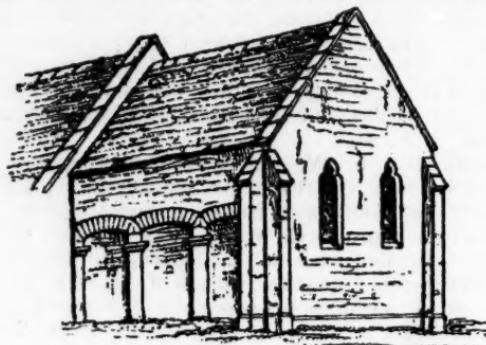
MAGOR CHURCH. N.W.

"This church is one of considerable interest, as exhibiting some of the rudest work in the district brought into close juxtaposition with some of the richest. The ground-plan comprises chancel, tower, and nave, with two aisles, which are continued to the east face of the tower, forming false transepts internally. The chancel is mainly Decorated, and has a curious window of two lights on the south side, having the quatrefoiled purlings of a reticulated window standing quite free, without any arch over it. The central tower is of the rough local early English, with very rude pointed lantern arches and plain pairs of lancets for belfry windows. There is a corbel table, but no battlement, and a square turret at the north-west corner. To this tower are, strangely enough, added a nave and aisles of Perpendicular work. The north-west view has an imposing effect: the clerestory is, as usual, absent; and the nave having a high pitched roof, does not at all harmonise with the low ones of the aisles, finished with parapets. The massive and picturesque outline of the tower groups well with the enormous porch below, of the full height of the aisle, and projecting in proportion. The outer doorway of this porch is very elaborate, and specially remarkable for an ornament, now sadly mutilated, of open foliation round the arch. This beautiful decoration, which occurs also at Caerwent, may not improbably have been imitated from the well-known instance at St. Stephen's, Bristol. In the interior we find arcades of very elaborate character. The piers are of the usual rather low proportions, but of more complicated section than any of their neighbours, and finished with capitals of a rich and singular kind, introducing figures holding scrolls, an ornament found in several Somersetshire examples; but here the effect is much altered by their being brought, from the lowness of the piers, very much nearer the eye. The east and west arches of the lantern are left in their original roughness, while those into the quasi-transepts have

received a casing of panel work. In the chancel is a timber roof worth notice, a strange variety of the cradle form, describing a sort of pointed arch depressed at the top." In the north quasi-transept are corbels representing a bishop and other ecclesiastics; a coffin lid with a Calvary cross, fleurie, within a circle, and fragments of a rood screen; and on the east wall are niches for statues. Externally should be noticed, in the south-east angle of the chancel, above a stone with chevron ornament, at least ten consecration crosses. A house in the village, called "The Church House", is worth noticing for some good oak panelling; and there are some considerable ruins a little to the north-west of the church, of which nothing appears to be known.

A pleasant drive from Magor, by Penhow, brought us to Caerwent, where we were met by Major Lawson Lowe, F.S.A., who acted as a most efficient guide for the rest of the day. The first object visited was the church, with respect to which Major Lowe stated that it was dedicated to St. Stephen, and might not improbably be of very early foundation, though of this there was no direct evidence. Mr. Freeman, in his paper already referred to, says that "the church seems certainly to have been built on the site, and partly out of the materials, of some Roman edifice. On the south side of the nave about one half the wall is built with common rubble, the other half of huge, rectangular stones, quite unlike the usual Gothic masonry. They are, however, most wretchedly put together, and we may most probably conjecture that they are the remains of a Roman structure, built up again as far as they would go, the rest of the wall being continued of new materials." The church was once of greater extent than at present, and seems to have had two side chapels or aisles to the chancel, and likewise a south aisle to the nave. A very remarkable arcade, now blocked with masonry, still exists on the south side of the chancel, and two blocked arches may also be seen from the outside in the south wall of the nave. The north wall of the chancel was entirely rebuilt between thirty and forty years ago. When the late vicar of Caerwent, the Rev. Macdonald Steel, was first appointed to the benefice, in 1843, the foundations of the two chancel aisles could be very distinctly traced, and some part of the walls of that on the south side was still standing. The chancel, which is of somewhat unusually large proportions, belongs to the Early English period; but the north wall has been rebuilt. The chancel arch has also been rebuilt, though with the old materials so far as was practicable. In taking it down, several fragments of earlier work were found, amongst which was a piece of Norman work, apparently an impost, and a stone covered with what seemed to be classical carving. The blocked arcade on the south side of the chancel, to which we have already alluded, and of which we reproduce an illustration from Mr. Freeman's article, is very peculiar. It is conspicuous for the extreme flatness of the arch, a peculiarity to be found in other churches in South Wales, notably at St. Lythan's, near Cardiff, and

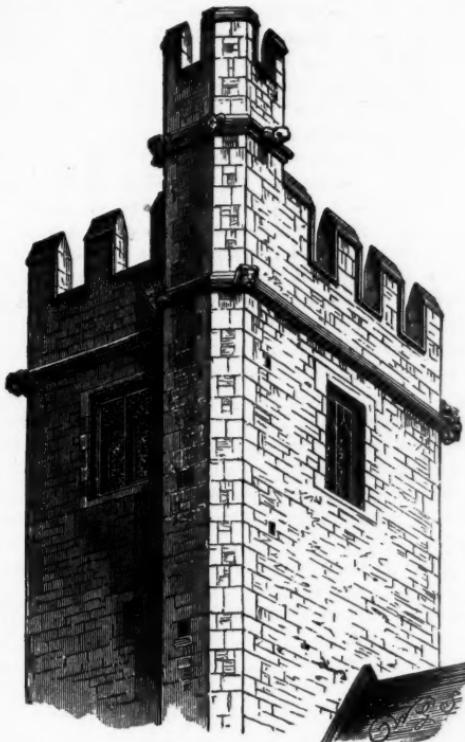
St. Florence, in Pembrokeshire. But, whilst those are deemed to be of Perpendicular work, showing simply the rudeness of workmanship to be expected from comparatively unskilled local masons when so unusual a requirement was laid upon them as that of constructing an arcade, the arcade at Caerwent, though it agrees with



CAERWENT CHURCH. S.E.

the three other examples in the flatness of the arch, yet the form is not the same, and the work, though very plain, is by no means rude. The peculiar form, though it might be unsightly, seems to have been intentionally selected, and is evidently not the result of mere inability to produce something better. Mr. Freeman argues from this that the arcade must, in all probability, be genuine Early English work, and contemporary with the elegant east end, and the somewhat elaborate chancel arch, now, unfortunately, rebuilt. The nave is principally of Perpendicular work. There is a holy water stoup in the north wall, close by the door. The rich outer doorway of the porch, originally ornamented, like that of Magor, with open foliations round the arch, is worthy of notice. Unfortunately, all the cusping has been destroyed. The tower may be considered as intermediate between the more purely ecclesiastical and the military type, of which the latter forms one of the most marked features in the churches of this district, and of which a fine example may be seen at Magor. The tower at Caerwent certainly approximates to these, but the usual corbel-table is wanting, and in some respects it deviates altogether from the defensive type. In its general features it greatly resembles those of Somersetshire, as will be seen from the accompanying engraving by Mr. W. G. Smith, from a photograph taken at the time by Mr. W. H. Banks. About twenty-five years ago the interior of the tower was seriously damaged by fire, arising from some defect in the heating apparatus, and the two old bells which it contained fell down and were broken to pieces. The present bell was cast from the frag-

ments. The fine old Jacobean pulpit has upon it the arms of the Williams of Llangibby, former lords of the manor of Caerwent; the arms of the Morgans of Tredegar, who intermarried with the Williams family; and a third shield bearing a representation of a cathedral, inscribed, "Ecclesia Landaven"—obviously referring to the Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral, to whom the Church of



Caerwent Church Tower.

Caerwent was granted, together with the Chapels of Llanfair, Dinham, and Crick, by Almeric de Lucy, lord of this place in or about the year 1337. There is an inscription round the top of the pulpit, "Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel", with the date 1632; but the panels on which this is carved do not occupy their original position, having been reversed, and on the other side of them are carved the names of "John Howells and William Parker, Churchwardens"; so that the inscription and date were probably added some few years later.

The walls of the ancient Roman city were, however, the main centres of interest; and after the company had had an opportunity of examining them, Major Lowe very kindly proffered some observations. He remarked that he believed the fact of Caerwent being the Venta Silurum of the Romans was unquestionable. The remains of the Roman city that could then be seen were confined to the city walls. These walls could be traced the whole way round the city. They formed a somewhat irregular parallelogram; the north and south walls were something over five hundred yards in length—the east and west walls about three hundred and ninety. The north wall was slightly bowed outwards, but the south wall was nearly straight. The walls could be traced round the city; but excepting the south side, comparatively little of the facing remained. On the south wall were four bastions. These had been supposed to be later work, but he offered no opinion on the point. The south wall was what was locally known as the port wall. There was a tradition that Caerwent was once a seaport, and that the Nedern, a small rivulet flowing at the bottom of the field they were then standing in, was once a tidal river, and that ships came up as far as they were standing. The local sages went farther than that, and said that the water came up to the walls. There could be no doubt that there had been an enormous alteration in the coast line, and it was quite possible that small ships might have come up the Nedern as far as Caerwent. The local sages he had spoken of mentioned that there were iron rings in the walls, and asserted that the ships were fastened to the rings. The fact that there ever had been such rings in the walls was generally disputed, but there seemed good evidence of them. A mason living in the village, one of many who distinctly assert that they have seen them, described them as being about ten inches or a foot in diameter; they were very much corroded. Major Lowe offered no opinion as to the origin or use of these rings, but pointed out that their existence would very probably account for the story that the tide came up to the walls. Remains of Roman buildings were found outside the walls. A short time ago he found what appeared to be the remains of a Roman villa of extensive dimensions on the north-east side of the city. He was told that other interesting discoveries had been made, but he was not able to fix the locality. About the year 1786, Sayer, the historian of Bristol, visited the place, and stayed some time, making careful notes. He found in the south-west angle remains of cross walls, which occupied considerable space. Sayer said that at that time limekilns were in active work, and it was marvellous that there was so much of the walls left. These cross walls were being taken down at the time he wrote, and burnt for lime. As they were aware, many tessellated pavements were found,—no less than three in 1689; and one very good one was discovered in 1777, in the south-east angle; another about 1830; and in 1855 the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Society made some interesting discoveries, an

account of which they would find in the thirty-sixth volume of the *Archæologia*. These remains were re-covered with earth, and still remained in the same condition as when found. Many of the pavements had, however, been wantonly destroyed. A small quantity of pottery had also been found, and also a large number of coins. A number of these, collected by Mr. William Till of the Great House, Caerwent, were exhibited in the Temporary Museum at Newport.

Mr. Walter Myers spoke of some very interesting discoveries made while excavating at Chichester with the British Association. He referred to the discovery of some bastions found at the base of a Roman structure, and twenty yards further they found the base of a Roman wall. He said the results of their labours were very satisfactory, and proved beyond doubt the existence of a Roman encampment. Perhaps if they were to excavate they would find something similar here, built at about the same time.

Major Lowe quite agreed that the walls had never been specially excavated, and said he wished the local Antiquarian Association would undertake the work. Mr. Octavius Morgan had conducted some excavations, and it was a remarkable fact that everything found within the Roman buildings was of Roman origin. The buildings themselves seem to have been allowed to fall into ruins. There was no trace of anything later, and it was difficult to reconcile that with the fact that when the Romans left the place it became an important British city.

Caldicot Church, restored in 1858, and the north aisle rebuilt at the cost of the Rev. E. Turberville Williams, comprises chancel, nave, and north aisle, with central tower, but no transepts. The



CALDICOTT CHURCH. S.W.

nave arcade resembles that at Magor, and the south windows of the chancel have Decorated, or rather flamboyant, tracery. The tower has a "quadrangular capping, and no battlement, and although plain, is a bold and handsome structure". The porch is fine, and has a niche for the patron saint. In the wall is enclosed an effigy of a civilian, the lower part of which has been mutilated. Both church and churchyard are kept in excellent order.

The drive to Portskewet yielded some fine views of Caldicot Castle, which, unhappily, was not open to our inspection.

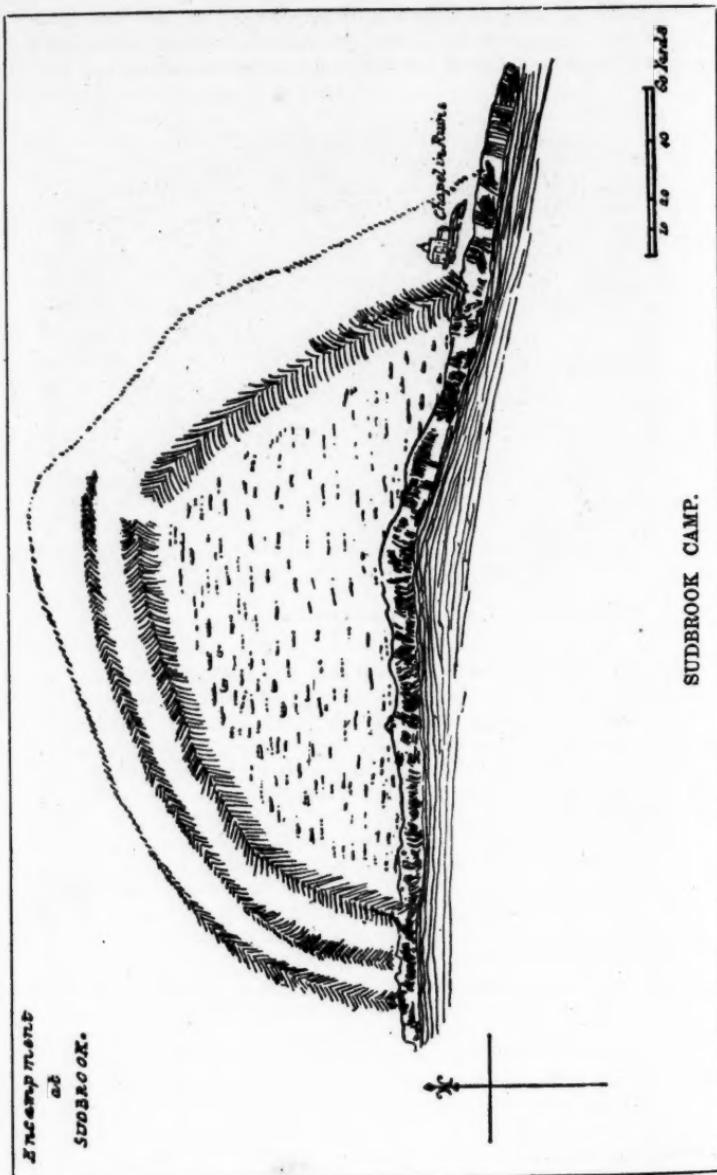
At Portskewet we were reminded by our guide, Major Lowe, how Saxon Chronicles tell us that "in this year [1065], before Lammas, Harold the Earl ordered a building to be erected at Portskeweth, after he had subdued it; and there he gathered much good, and thought to have King Edward there for the purpose of hunting; but when all was ready then went Caradoc, Griffin's son, with the whole force that he could procure, and slew almost all the people who there had been building, and they took the good which then was prepared." This was done on St. Bartholomew's mass-day (August the 24th). This same Caradock ap Griffith had previously assisted Earl Harold against Griffith ap Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, and it is said that he destroyed Harold's palace in revenge for the Earl not having aided him in recovering the Principality of South Wales. The site of this palace, according to tradition, was in the meadow immediately adjoining the churchyard, just beyond the west end of the church, where some traces of the foundations of buildings are plainly visible. The church itself, which is dedicated to St. Mary, presents several interesting features, vestiges of early work being discernible both in the nave and chancel, and it is not improbable that it may have been originally erected by Earl Harold. Over the north door of the nave, of which we give an engraving, is a large block of sandstone, forming the tympanum, upon which a Greek cross is somewhat rudely sculptured in relief within a semicircular compartment, at the bottom of which runs a band of cable moulding; and immediately beneath it a similar band, but with the moulding reversed, runs along the whole width of the doorway. This interesting early Romanesque door-head, or tympanum, seems clearly to belong to the pre-Norman period, and has been recognised as such by Mr. E. A. Freeman and other authorities. No less than three consecration crosses appear incised on the jambs of this doorway. The one on the western side seems of very early character, presumably contemporary with the doorway itself, whilst the two others, on the opposite side, are obviously later. The south door is of the same period and very similar, but it has unfortunately been plastered over; and the massive round-headed chancel arch is probably of the same date as these two doorways. Unfortunately the interior of the church is sadly disfigured by plaster and colour-wash. Were these removed, other interesting features would doubtless be brought to light. In the churchyard stands an unusually large cross, concerning which

there is a tradition that some saintly personage once preached from it. There is also another highly improbable tradition, that the cross marks the grave of one of the native princes of the district.



Tympanum, Portskewet Church.

Passing through the extensive village temporarily erected in connection with the works for the Severn Tunnel, we reached the great camp at Sudbrook, which overhangs the sea-cliff. Much discussion has taken place as to the origin and date of this camp. Some have maintained that what now remains is only a portion of the original; that it was at first quadrangular, and erected by the Romans, but that a large portion of it has been gradually undermined by the action of the tides and washed away by the sea; and in support of this theory it is asserted that the rocks and shoals known as Bedwin, Gruggy, and Dinan, now far away in the Channel, were once connected with the mainland; that it was owing to the encroachments of the sea that the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, the remains of which stand in the foss of the camp, fell into disuse and decay; and that a medal in honour of Severus found here, as well as the discovery of Roman bricks and coins (which last, however, Ormerod in his *Strigulensis*, p. 27, considers inaccurate), argue its Roman origin. Others maintain, and among them Ormerod himself, that although it may very likely have been occupied by the Romans, it has much more the character of a British camp. Some of our Members, however, doubted very much whether it had ever been materially diminished by the action of the sea; and they held that it bore a strong resemblance, both in form and position, to the



Cliff Camps on the coast of Pembrokeshire; some at least of which are assigned to the predatory inroads of Norse and Danish pirates.

A full account,¹ with many illustrations, is given by Mr. Octavius Morgan and Mr. Wakeman of the ruined chapel of Sudbrook. It consisted of nave, chancel, and south porch; the oldest portion being the nave, on the south side of which there still remains "one very small round-headed window to announce the fact of its having been originally a Norman structure". The chancel appears to have been rebuilt, and a new chancel arch inserted about the middle of the fourteenth century. Between the priest's door and the east wall is the piscina, which has a simple square water-drain. Projecting from the east wall are the remains of two moulded stones, which may have been brackets to support figures on each side of the altar. In the north-east corner are the remains of a narrow shelf, about seven inches wide, and pierced with five holes, apparently to "support an iron grating, probably to protect some painting or sculpture of a Scriptural subject behind it." It is conjectured that the alteration in the church may have been made either by Walter de St. Pierre, lord of Portskevet and Sudbrook, 1330, or his son, John de St. Pierre, lord of Sudbrook. From this John, the last male heir of the family, the manor of Sudbrook passed to the Kemeyses of Began, and from them to the Herberts of Caldicot, by one of whose descendants it was sold to Mr. Lewis of St. Pierre, its present lord.

A pleasant drive brought us to the wild and picturesque park of St. Pierre, where Mr. Lewis received the party with a genial and welcome hospitality. The gateway tower, the wainscoted rooms, the rich tapestry, and the paintings, were inspected; and afterwards the very interesting church, with its historic monuments, which Major Lowe described in illustrating the earlier fortunes of the manor.

The church shows workmanship of different periods, from the Norman doorway (closed) and gable loop at the west end, to the later chancel, which is divided from the nave by a screen. Over the doorway of the north porch is a niche for a statue, as is so frequently the case in the churches of this district. A walk across the fields brought the members to Moyne's Court, a fine specimen of an Elizabethan house, with its singular gatehouse, flanked by two towers, leading into the courtyard. The house is noteworthy as having been built, in 1609, by Bishop Francis Godwin of Llandaff (1601-17), the author of a Catalogue of the Bishops of England, 1601, but best known from the later Latin edition of the same, 1616, *De Praesulibus Angliae Commentarius*.

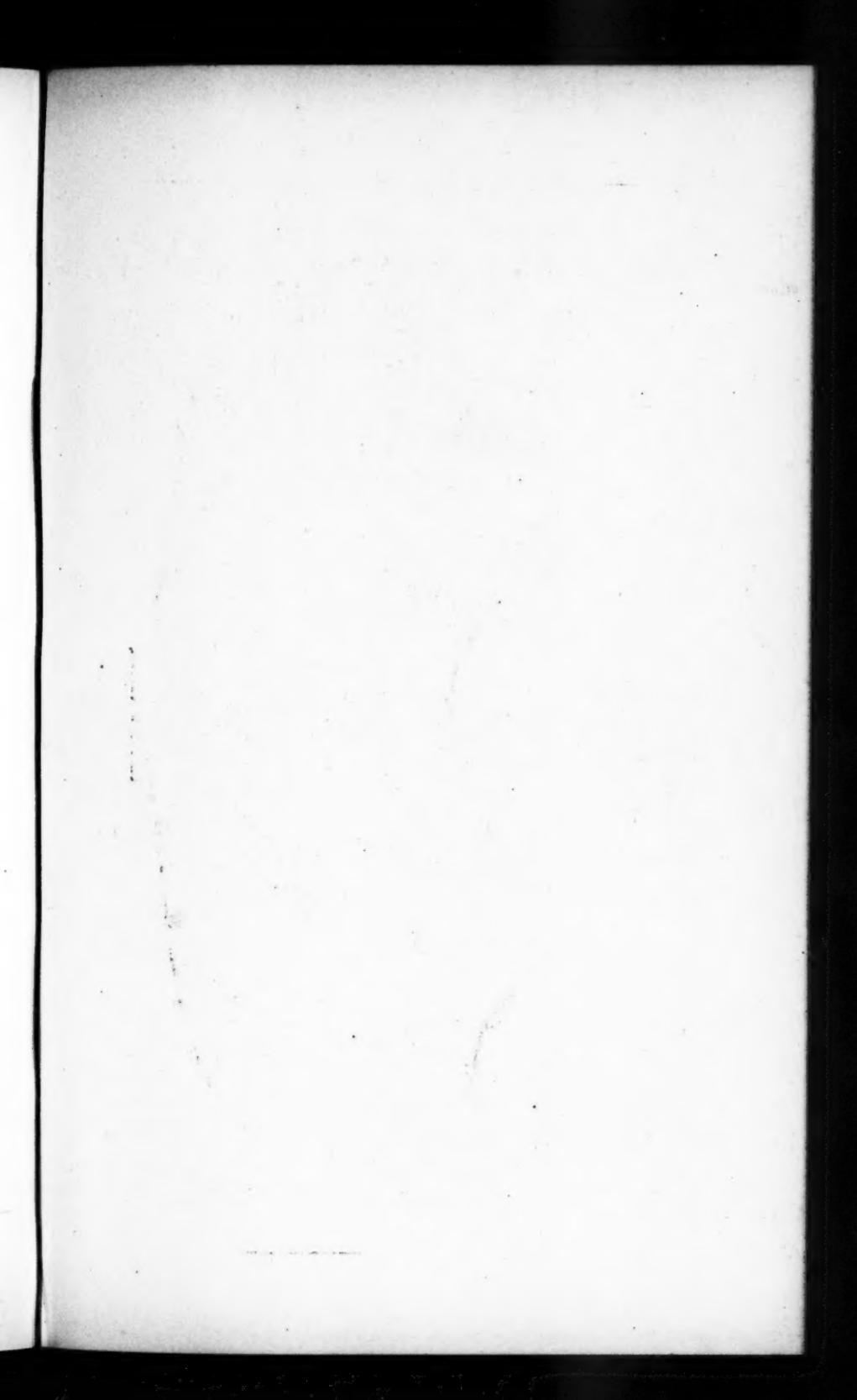
Another place famous for its connection with the see of Llandaff is the neighbouring palace at Matherne, a residence from very early times of the bishops of that diocese. The present edifice was built,

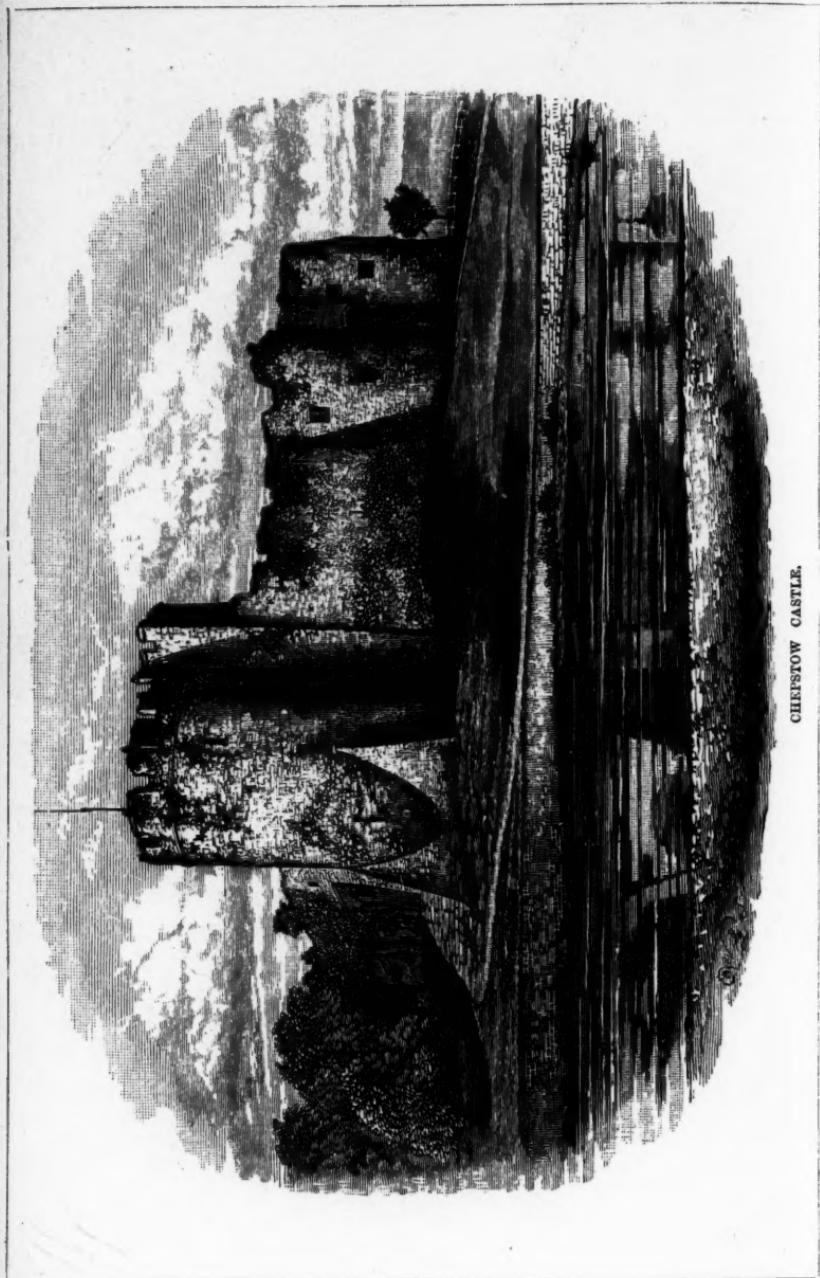
¹ *Notes on the Ecclesiastical Remains at Runston, Sudbrook, Dinham, and Llanbedr*. Printed for the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association.

according to Godwin, by two different bishops. The tower, porch, and other parts of the north and north-east, were portions erected by John de la Zouch, a monk of the Order of Franciscans, who presided over the see from 1408 to 1423. The chapel, hall, kitchen, and adjoining apartments were added by Miles Salley, 1500-1516, abbot successively of Abingdon and of Eynsham. "The principal hall was thirty-two feet by sixteen, and twenty feet in height. The chapel, when undivided, was eighty feet by ten." Freeman calls it "the Lamphey of Llandaff". It is now used as a farm-house.

The church of Matherne, which has lately been very effectively restored by Mr. Pritchard, diocesan architect, consists of a stately massive western tower, with nave and aisles, south porch and chancel; and is noted as having been the burial-place of St. Tewdric, the hermit king of Glamorgan. The story of his death is given in the *Liber Lundavensis*, and Bishop Godwin has given us the following account of the endowment of the church and the see. "The Manor of Matherne, where there is now a palace, was given to the Bishops of Llandaff by Maurice, King of Glamorgan, about the year 560, on the following occasion: his father, St. Theodoric, as he is usually called, having resigned his crown to his son, embraced the life of a hermit. The Saxons invading the country, Theodoric was reluctantly called from his hermitage to take the command of the army. He defeated them near Tintern, upon the Wye. Being mortally wounded in the engagement, he precipitated his return, that he might die among his friends, and desired his son to erect a church, and bury him on the spot where he breathed his last. He had scarcely proceeded five miles when he expired, at a place near the conflux of the Wye and Severn; hence, according to his desire, a small chapel being erected, his body was placed in a stone coffin. As I was giving orders to repair this coffin, which was either broken by chance, or decayed by age, I discovered his bones, not in the smallest degree changed, though after a period of a thousand years, the skull retaining the aperture of a large wound, which appeared as if it had been recently inflicted. Maurice gave the contiguous estate to the church, and assigned to the place the name of Merthyr Tewdric, or the Martyr Theodorick, who, because he perished in battle against the enemies of the Christian name, is esteemed a martyr."

This is further commemorated by a tablet in the chancel; and during the restoration in 1881, when excavating at the base of the north wall, just beneath it, the stone coffin above alluded to was found and carefully reburied on the completion of the work. A little to the east of the coffin was also discovered an earthen vessel, believed to have been the urn in which had been deposited the heart and bowels of Bishop Salley, who directed in his will that his heart and bowels should be buried at Matherne, and his body in the Mayor's Chapel, Bristol. Other bishops of Llandaff buried here were Anthony Kitchen, 1545-1566; Hugh Jones, 1567-1574, and William Blethin, 1575-1590. The earliest portion of the present





CHEPSTOW CASTLE.



church is the square pillar in the north-west of the nave ; twelve feet to the north-west of which the base of a similar one was found in 1881, thus indicating the position of the original nave. The existing nave and chancel were built in the thirteenth century, and the tower and aisles in the fifteenth, by Bishop John Marshall, 1478-1496. The chancel arch is carried through with continuous mouldings, and in its crown are three grooves which mark the position of the rood ; above it are two openings, and on either side a squint or hagioscope. In the south wall of the chancel is a double piscina ; the pillars of the nave arcades are clustered shafts around a central column ; the west window contains the collected fragments of old stained glass. All these points were clearly described by the Rev. Watkin Davies, who kindly acted as guide for the occasion.

Chepstow Castle, the next place visited, has its main history briefly summarised by Mr. G. T. Clark, as follows :—“ Chepstow is placed upon a cliff, on the western or right bank of the river (Wye), evidently, like Newport, intended as a *tête du pont*, to cover the passage of troops, the river not being there fordable. As the name imports, the settlement is of English origin, though its *Domesday* designation, Estrighoil, corrupted into Strigil, is Welsh. The Castle is divided from the town by a deep ravine, and is altogether outside the wall, which was unusual. The keep of Norman masonry may be the work of William FitzOsborne, Earl of Hereford, or at latest of Roger de Britoli, his son and successor. As early as in the reign of Henry I, Chepstow had come into the possession of the De Clares of the Strongbow line, often called Earls of Strigil. Its possession enabled the Mareschals, successors to the De Clares, to hold their Earldom against Henry III.”¹

Its “Annals” have been treated in full by Mr. Fitchett Marsh, and edited by Sir John Maclean ; while the late Mr. Ormerod, D.C.L., has published in his *Strigulensis* several articles bearing on its early history, and that of its parish church.

We were, however, none the less fortunate in having once again the guidance of Major Lowe, who led the members from court to court, pointing out their notable features, both architectural and historical. In the third court, where Mr. G. T. Clark thought there was no absolutely certain trace of Norman work, and little that could with certainty be pronounced Early English, Major Lowe suggested that the four windows of the hall on the upper floor of the building, flanking the gateway, were late Norman, with some later additions ; and in the fourth court, again, within the vaulting of the gatehouse, where Mr. Clark points out that the grooves for the portcullis stop about six feet above the level of the road, and states that the grate of the portcullis must have had prongs of that length, Major Lowe urged, from an examination of the quoins of the inner archway, that the road had been raised some feet above the present level, and that the portcullis grooves had consequently

¹ *Medieval Military Architecture*, i, p. 3.

come to within a foot or so of what had been the original level. Before leaving the Castle, Canon Thomas expressed, in the name of the Association, their great indebtedness to Major Lowe for his valuable and courteous services throughout the day. The paper on Chepstow Castle will, it is hoped, appear in due time in the Journal.

The last object inspected during the day was the very interesting parochial, and formerly conventional, church. The earliest notice of it occurs, according to Ormerod,¹ in a Bull of Pope Alexander III, A.D. 1168, from which it appears that "it had been given, 'cum omnibus pertinentiis,' by some unnamed donor, to the Abbey of Cormeilles in Normandy, founded in 1060 by Earl William Fitz-Osborne, who built the Castle of Strigul in later days, and whose son, Roger de Bretville, incurred forfeiture in 1073, before the completion of the *Domesday Survey*, which is silent as to the existence of either the priory or church at Strigul, now Chepstow.

"A later document, however, the Confirmation Charter of King Henry II to the Abbey of Cormeilles, gives an earlier date for the existence of the church of Strigul, and confirms to its monks, churches, lands, etc., as held by them in the time of his grandfather, Henry I, who died in 1100, and names among these tithes in the demesne of Earl Richard FitzGilbert, between Usk and Wye, a fourth part of the tithes of Strigul, and *the church of Strigul, with its chapels, tithes, rent, and appurtenances*.

"The remains of the Anglo-Norman church, as they appeared in 1837, consisted of a nave and side aisles, a comparatively modern north porch, concealing a beautiful Norman arch, with a niche in the early English style over it; belfry tower, erected in 1705-6, under the direction of the port surveyor, over the two westernmost arches of the nave, and the characteristic Norman western porch.

"This western entrance, in the arrangement of its Norman doorway, with its lateral blank arches and the three round-headed windows over it, is noteworthy as being almost a counterpart of the beautiful entrance of St. George's at Bocherville, built about 1050. The eastern piers, intended for the support of a central tower, also bore a close resemblance to some of the simpler parts of that noble fabric. The side aisles also agreed at their western end with the same Norman fabric, and although much disfigured by comparatively modern windows in an anomalous Pointed style, had originally been lighted by small round-headed ones set high in the wall.

"The aisles were separated from the nave by six unusually massive piers, connected by plain round arches with impost mouldings. . . . Over these round arches still remain the Triforia, and over these a row of clerestory windows, all early Norman."

The effect of the demolition of the easternmost pair of arches and the north porch that took place in 1837, and of the subsequent alterations and additions, have been vividly described by Mr. Freeman in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, Second Series, vol. ii, pp. 1-8.

¹ *Strigulensis*, p. 78.

EVENING MEETING (TUESDAY).

In the absence of the President, Canon Thomas took the Chair, and before giving a *résumé* of the day's proceedings, took occasion to thank the members for the honour they had conferred upon him in making him their Chairman of Committee, a post which involved much labour and watchfulness for the welfare of the Association. He would do his best to discharge his new duties, and he asked for their forbearance with his shortcomings, and their hearty co-operation, which he knew they would give, in order to render the work of the Association as efficient and successful as possible. One of these duties would be to give a *résumé* of each day's excursion. Such a recapitulation would, he feared, seem tedious and uninteresting to some at least of those who had seen for themselves most, if not all, of the places and objects referred to, but the purpose of it appeared to him to be twofold, and the general result good and useful. It gave the Members an opportunity of drawing attention to points which, in the multiplicity of objects and the brevity of the time allowed, often escaped the general observation; and by eliciting discussion tended to throw many side-lights upon the subjects, and so helped materially to elucidate and explain their character and purpose. Above all, it was intended to give the residents a wider insight into the antiquities among which they lived, and excite in them a deeper interest in their study and their preservation. He then proceeded to describe briefly the chief features of the day's excursion, and having referred, in passing, to their great regret at not having been permitted to inspect more closely the fine remains of Caldicot Castle, he expressed the great obligations under which they all lay to Major Lawson-Lowe for his guidance at Caerwent, Portskewet, Sudbrook, St. Pierre, and Chepstow, and the excellent papers with which he had favoured them at those places.

Mr. F. J. Mitchell was then called upon to read his "Notes on the History of Monmouthshire", a very timely subject, well and carefully handled, for which the thanks of the meeting were heartily accorded. The paper will appear in an early number of the *Archæologia Cambrensis*.

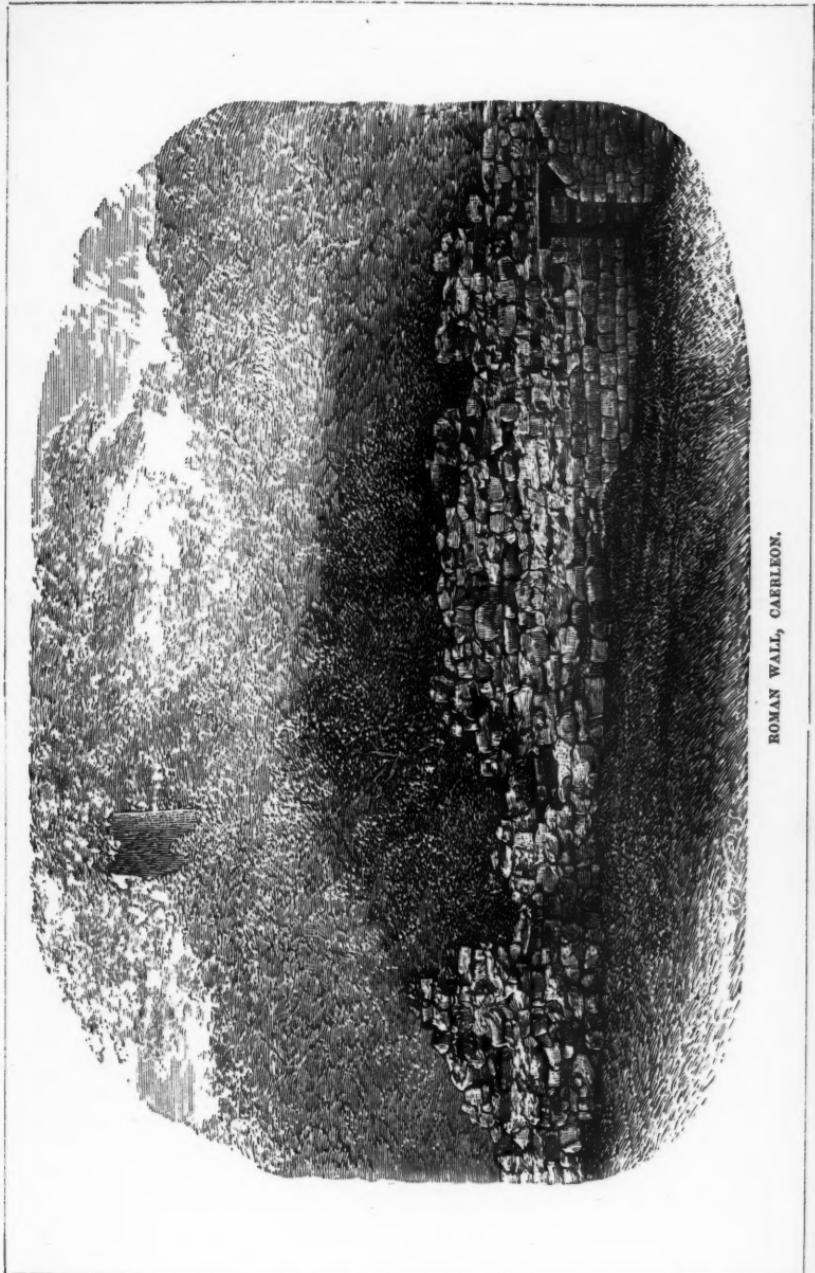
Mr. C. Wilkins exhibited rubbings of portions of two inscribed stones of Romano-British date, at Abercar in Breconshire, and gave an account of the discovery of one of them by Iolo Morganwg, and how it was shown by the latter's son, Taliesin, to Prof. Westwood, who has given both a description and an engraving of it in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, and in the *Lapidarium Walliae*. Quite recently, however, he had himself found a further portion of the inscription, and also a fragment of a second. The former read, "NNICCI FILIVS IACIT IN SECVERI IN HOC TVMVLO"; all that remains of the second is simply "ETA FIL". Prof. Rhys made some remarks on the proper name

NNICCI, and some cognate forms; but we purpose giving a fuller account of these stones in a future number.

Before the close of the meeting a communication was read by the Secretary from Mr. Cobb, in which he expressed his regret at having been unable to receive the Association at Caldicot Castle, owing to the transition state in which it was involved for needful repairs. Mr. Cobb also complained of the treatment his work at Monkton Old Hall had received at the Annual Meeting at Pembroke in 1880, and claimed that he had carefully observed these two canons: (1) never to remove an ancient stone, except to put a similar sound one in its place, or to bring to light one more ancient; and (2) never to put any constructural work (socket-pipes excepted) but what there is evidence that it or its equivalent existed before. Some notes on Chepstow and Caldicot Castles, included in the letter, will appear in a future number of this Journal.

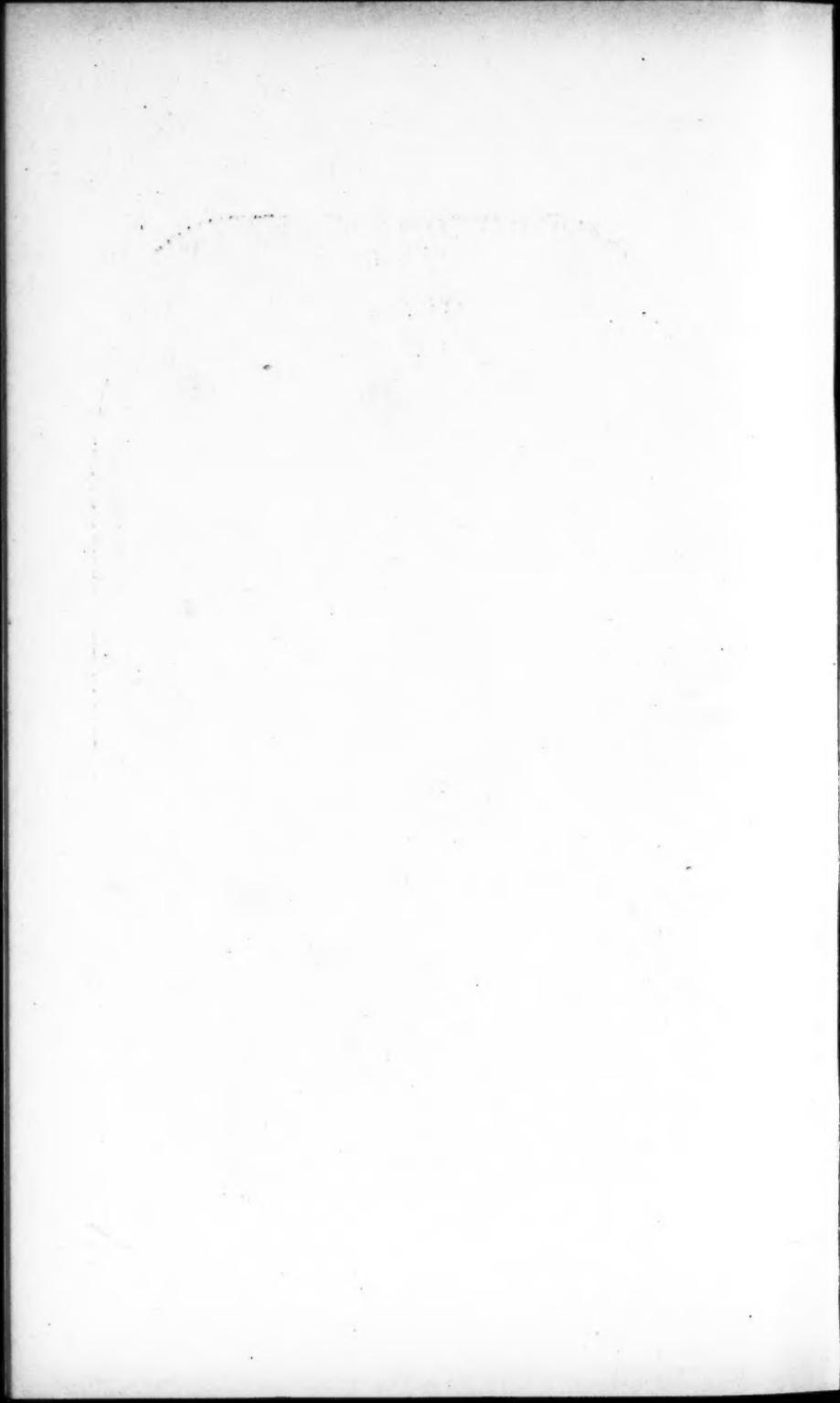
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25TH.

Leaving Newport at 9.30, the Members proceeded by carriage road direct to Caerleon, where they were met by Mr. F. J. Mitchell, our guide for the occasion. Having shown from the bridge the general lie of the Roman city and the mediæval castle, Mr. Mitchell pointed out the position of the bridge by which the Roman road was carried over the Usk, and the means by which it was defended, and then led the party along the outer face of the Roman Wall, and by its south-west angle, where the best section is to be seen of the original walling, of which we are glad to be able to give an engraving from a photograph taken by Mr. W. H. Banks. This wall is not to be compared indeed with the similar remains at Caerwent; but considering for how many generations it must have served as a quarry for building material for the town, it is not to be wondered at that so little now survives. In the adjoining field, on the west, is the amphitheatre, no longer showing its rows of seats, but still giving evidence of the four points of ingress and egress. Though much worn away by the effects of time, it is still of considerable size, and far more distinct in its character than the one seen at our visit to Mons Hériti (Trawsfynydd, Merionethshire) last year. Its purpose is further confirmed by the name of the adjoining "Bear House Field". Between the amphitheatre, however, and the field runs the expressive "Broadway", *i.e.*, the Roman road from Caerleon to Nidum and Maridunum. Turning along this, the Via Julia, we entered the station on its western side, and, passing the Priory House on the right, proceeded to the Museum. Numerous Roman remains had been dug up at different times within the limits of the wall and in the surrounding district, many of them were turned to other uses or destroyed; but when, in 1847, that excellent Association the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Society, was established, one of its first cares was the erection of the Museum,



ROMAN WALL, CAERLEON.





where the finds might be safely stored. So that now, mainly through the indefatigable devotion of Mr. John Edward Lee, F.S.A., Caerleon can boast of a collection of Roman antiquities not often excelled. These have been described and illustrated by Mr. Lee in his *Delineations of Roman Antiquities found at Caerleon (the ancient Isca Silurum) and its Neighbourhood*; but as this brief (only fifty-four pages) but scarce work has long been out of print, we would refer those who may wish for further detail to a handy little guide-book to Newport and Caerleon (Part I), published by Mr. W. N. Johns, Newport, who gives from it, *inter alia*, a handy summary of the contents of the Museum and their original locality. These remains embrace altars, votive tablets, sepulchral inscriptions, centurial stones, tiles, pottery (black and red), Samian ware, amphoræ, urns, lamps, fibulae, columns from the market-place, a beautiful tessellated pavement, and a large collection of coins found either here or at Caerwent. For a notice of some of these remains we refer our readers to the late Prebendary Davies's paper on "Caerleon on Usk", in the current Number.

The church, recently restored by Seddon, is of Perpendicular character, and comprises chancel, nave, north and south aisles, and a north transept with vestry at north-east angle. The oldest portion is the westernmost bay of the nave, which is Norman, and has a doorway above; it now forms the base of the tower. The chancel arch is continuous, as at St. Asaph Cathedral: the pillars of the arcade have been taken down and rebuilt. There is a handsome modern reredos, representing the Last Supper. In the churchyard still stands the base of the cross, now forming a post for a lamp; but a Roman altar, an inscribed stone, and a tessellated pavement of labyrinthine pattern (the last found in digging a grave in 1865) have been removed to the Museum for preservation.

After the church, a visit was made to the site of the castle, in the grounds of Dr. Woollett, who very courteously received the Members, and read an interesting paper on the History and Legends of Caerleon, which will be printed in the Journal. He also pointed out the site where remains of a Roman villa had been exhumed, and then led the party to the top of the castle mound, from which an extensive view was obtained of many places of interest in the neighbourhood. After partaking of his hospitality, the party proceeded by road to Usk, passing on their left the ruins of Llangibby Castle.

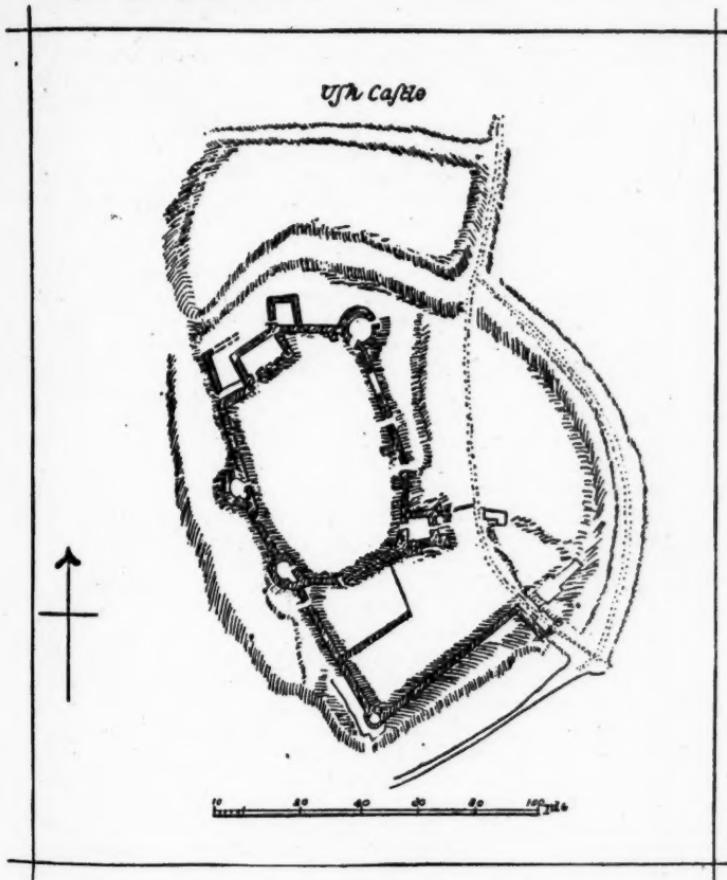
At Usk, the first object visited was the Benedictine Priory Church, the foundation of which is attributed by Tanner to Sir Richard de Clare and his son Gilbert, prior to A.D. 1236. The tower stands at the east end, and the space beneath it now forms the chancel; but originally it was not so, but it stood at the junction of the monastic choir and the parochial nave; and it shows by its external weatherings that the church had been cruciform. The arches of the tower are Norman, but the church was rebuilt in the thirteenth century, with later additions of Perpendicular date. On the Dissolution, the

Nolentem quod per ipsam etiam
 Sift summa sciam p[er]petuamque D[icitur] k[on]sumor d[icitur] h[ab]itu[m] h[ab]itu[m]

estates of the Priory were granted to Roger Williams, and the monastic portion of the church, as well as the monastic buildings soon fell into decay. It was about the same time that the chancel was transferred to its present position from the easternmost bay of the nave. Portions of the rood screen remain still *in situ*, and let into it is a brass plate, with an inscription which has been a puzzle to antiquaries for generations. Coxe has given a very fair engraving of it, and a number of attempted translations, none of which, however, are very intelligible, or catch at all clearly the purport of the wording. In the *Archæologia Cambrensis* (First Series, vol. ii, pp. 34-41) there is an article by Mr. Wakeman, who also gives the readings from Coxe, and another of his own, in which he appropriates the inscription to one "Adam Usk", whom he would identify with Adam ap Iorwerth ap Cradoc, living in the time of Henry III, and Steward of the manor belonging to the Clare family in the county of Monmouth. This office he had held under the last of the Welsh lords, viz., Morgan ap Howel, and on his decease he transferred his services to his Norman successors, and obtained a charter from Henry III, dated 1246, confirming to him the office and the estates granted to him by his former masters. Canon Thomas, however, claimed the inscription for another Adam Usk, an eminent native of the town, born about 1360 or 1365, a Doctor of Laws of Oxford, and a prominent actor in many civil and ecclesiastical causes of his time. This Adam wrote a Chronicle of contemporary events, which has only quite recently been discovered, edited and translated by Mr. E. Maunde Thompson of the British Museum, and published by John Murray, 1876, under the title of *Chronicon Adaë de Usk*. The book itself was exhibited by Canon Thomas, and sundry local references brought to support the appropriation,—a subject to which we hope a fuller recurrence will some day be made. Mr. Egerton Phillimore added much criticism of the somewhat hopeless attempts that had been made at translation, but confessed his inability to render a satisfactory one.

Through the courtesy of the owner of the Priory, the Members were permitted on the present occasion to examine the south and east end of the church, which enabled Mr. S. W. Williams to work out some interesting points in its architectural character, of which further notice will appear.

Of the castle there are but scant remains, a mere shell enclosing an oblong court about 240 feet in length by 162 feet in breadth. The earliest portion is the keep, on the west side, the base of which is Norman, with later additions above, but the extensive earthworks and dykes, shown on the accompanying plan, indicate that it must have been a strongly fortified post before the existing castle was erected. The Great Hall appears to have been at the north-west angle of the court, and beneath it the buttery; at the south-east corner, near the gateway, which is grooved for a portcullis, stood the principal apartments.



It is not known who was the founder of the castle, but the earliest name that appears to have been historically connected with the place

was one Twrstan Fitz Rolfe, who was standard-bearer to the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings, and is described as holding certain lands between the Usk and the Wye and certain lands beyond the Usk, which included Trelleck as one of its members. He was lord of Usk, and having died without issue, Usk appears to have been granted to Richard de Clare, who also came over with the Conqueror, and to whom he was very nearly related. He died in 1114, and was succeeded by the two Gilberts de Clare, surnamed Strongbow. The conqueror of Ireland, Richard Strongbow, held the castle for some time, when it was taken by Owen ap Iorwerth of Caerleon. Isabella, the heiress of the last Richard, married William de la Grace, the first Earl of Pembroke, Earl of Chepstow, and Lord Mareschal of England (William Marshall, so surnamed from his office), by whom she had five sons and five daughters. He died in 1219, and was succeeded by his five sons, viz., William, Richard, Gilbert, Walter, and Anselm, who died without issue, upon which the property became divided amongst the descendants, and Usk was awarded to Richard de Clare, the son of Isabella, the third sister, who married Richard, Earl of Gloucester. Upon Richard de Clare's death in 1262, his son Gilbert, surnamed "The Red," being under age, was a ward of the Crown, and on attaining his majority he went to law with his mother, who claimed Usk as a part of her dower. The castle was taken by Simon de Montfort in 1265, but three days afterwards he was driven out by Gilbert and Prince Edward; he went to Newport, where he demolished the bridge, and afterwards escaped into Wales. Earl Gilbert died in Monmouth Castle, December 25th, 1295, leaving a son Gilbert, four years old, and three daughters. His widow then held the castle of Usk as her dower. Gilbert came of age May 11th, 1313, but was killed at the battle of Bannockburn, on the 24th June, in the following year, and his only son having died in infancy, his property was divided between the three sisters. Upon the division, Usk was awarded to the youngest, Elizabeth, who first married John de Burgh, Earl of Ulster; secondly, Theobald de Verdun; and thirdly, Roger de Amory. Notwithstanding her subsequent marriages she always styled herself Elizabeth de Burgh, the Lady of Clare. She was compelled to exchange Usk and Caerleon with Hugh le Despenser the younger, for manors in Glamorganshire, but not without a very solemn protest on the part of the Lady Elizabeth. Her third husband, Roger de Amory, was engaged with the other barons in ravaging the estates of the Despensers, and being taken prisoner was sentenced to be hung, but the king pardoned him on account of his former services, and because he had married his niece. The castle was seized by the king in 1322, and given into the custody of John Walwyn, and soon afterwards to Gilbert Glynkerney, who was ordered to levy 300 men for the king's service, and to obey the orders of Hugh Despenser. On the accession of Edward III, he restored the estates to the Lady Elizabeth, who survived her three husbands, and died in 1360. Her only son, William de Burgh,

having died before her, Elizabeth de Burgh, her grand-daughter, became her heir, who at an early age was married to Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. Philippa, their daughter and heiress, married Edmund de Mortimer, Earl of March, who died in 1382, leaving his son Roger under age, the rightful heir to the throne of England. Roger Mortimer, fourth Earl of March, was born here, April 11th, 1374, and baptised the following Sunday, by Courtney, Bishop of Hereford; he had for sponsors the Abbot of Llandaff, the Abbot of Gloucester, and the Prioress of Usk, and was declared by the Parliament in 1381 heir-apparent to the Crown. On the 26th July 1397, Earl Roger, who was styled Lord of Usk, Trelleck, Llangibby, Caerleon, Tredunnock, etc., granted a charter, conferring certain privileges on the burgesses of Usk, which charter was confirmed by his son Edmund. Ann, the sister of Edmund, married Richard, Duke of York. Edmund, being the right heir to the Crown, was imprisoned during the reign of Henry IV; but Henry V, on his accession, had the generosity to liberate his prisoner and restore to him his estates. Edmund de Mortimer died in 1424. His widow held the castle in dower; she died in 1432, when Richard, Duke of York, nephew of Edmund de Mortimer, succeeded to the castle and made it his residence; and his son Edward, afterwards Edward IV, King of England, was born here. William ap Thomas (William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke) and his son, the second Earl, were Constables of the castle; and it seems probable that the north porch of the church, decorated with the Herbert badge, was erected by one of them. Henry VII gave Usk to his son Arthur, Prince of Wales, upon whose death it reverted to the Crown, and was, in 1544, given to Queen Catherine Parr as part of her dower. After her death, Edward VI, on the 6th May 1550, granted it to Sir William Herbert, afterwards Earl of Pembroke. During the reigns of Henry VII and VIII, the castle appears to have been neglected; and in the valuation of the property at the time of this grant, it was stated to be in a ruinous condition and worth nothing, and that the herbage of the courts was claimed as a perquisite by the Steward. It continued in the Herbert family to the death of Philip, seventh Earl of this branch of the Herbarts, and then devolved to his only daughter Charlotte, who married, first, John Lord Jeffreys; and secondly, Thomas, Viscount Windsor. Their son, Herbert, Viscount Windsor, sold it to Valentine Morris of Piercefield, who disposed of it to Lord Clive, from whom it was purchased by the fifth Duke of Beaufort, and is now the property of the eighth Duke of Beaufort.

Arrived at the beautiful ruins of Raglan Castle, we passed, under the guidance of the warden, Mr. Raglan Somerset, through the grand portal, between two imposing pentagonal towers, into the paved court, at the south-east corner of which stands the closet tower, and adjoining to it the breach in the walls made by Sir Thomas Fairfax, the Parliamentary general, which led, after a close siege of more than two months, to its capture and final dismantle-

ment, by the orders of the ruthless Cromwell. This castle was one of the most frequent and welcome resorts of Charles, in whose behalf it was the first to be armed by its owner, the noble old Marquis of Worcester, and the last to surrender to the King's enemies. The oldest portion is the massive hexagonal keep, "Twr Melyn Gwent" (the Yellow Tower of Gwent), surrounded by a deep moat and detached from the rest of the fortress, but enclosed within the walled area of four acres and a half. The hall of state, with its beautiful window; the state apartments of the royal martyr; the ruined chapel and the grand staircase in the fountain court, with such details as still survived of sculpture and carving, all made us regret that our time had run so short; but it is something to look back upon with lingering memories. Although "not of the extent of Caerphilly or Carnarvon, nor of the antiquity of Harlech, Rhuddlan, or Chepstow, it is of an age sufficient to make it venerable, and so decked with manifold beauty of design and execution, as to awaken a sense of boundless admiration, mixed with unavoidable regret that a human work so grand and mighty should be lying ingloriously in the dust."

Little is known of the castle built here by the De Clares in the thirteenth century, but it is believed to have occupied the site of the Tower of Gwent. In the reign of Henry V the castle was in the possession of Sir William ap Thomas, the son of Thomas ap Gwilym ap Jenkin of Llansantffraed; his son William was created Lord of Raglan, Chepstow, and Gower, by Edward IV, who commanded him to assume the surname of Herbert, in honour of his ancestor Herbert FitzHenry, Chamberlain to Henry I, and he was afterwards created Earl of Pembroke. On the death of his eldest son, William, without male issue, in 1491, the castle and estates passed with his daughter Elizabeth to her husband, Sir Charles Somerset, from whom they have lineally descended to the present owner, the Duke of Beaufort.¹

EVENING MEETING.

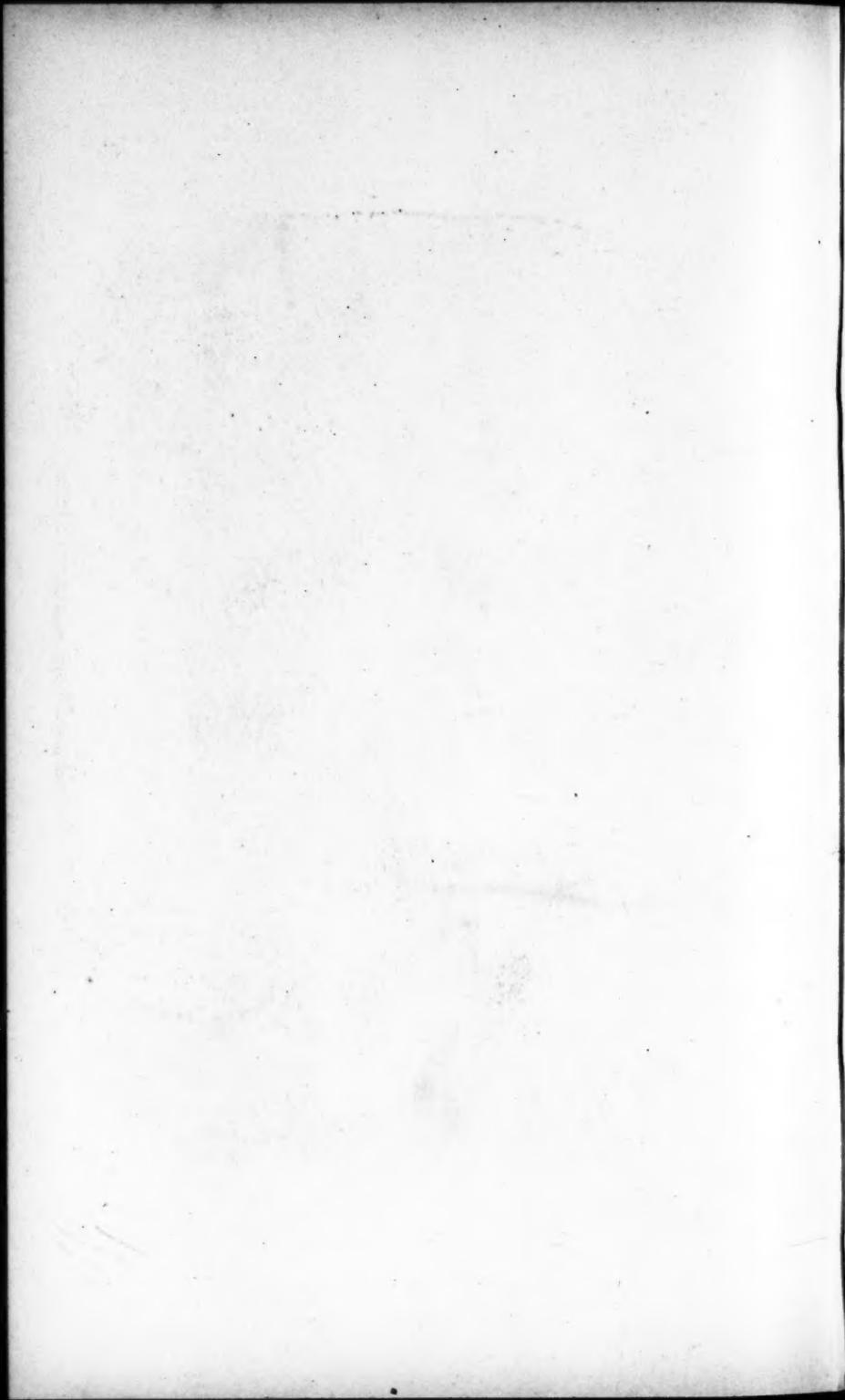
The President, on taking the chair, regretted that the great extent of ground covered by their excursion yesterday, and the lateness of their return, had rendered it impossible for him to get back from his house in time to take his place last evening, and that his duties as Chairman of the Alexandra Dock Company had necessitated his absence from to-day's excursion; but he hoped that Members had had as pleasant and successful a day as the preceding, and especially that they had discovered the old Roman racecourse at Caerleon, and had come back quite convinced that Arthur and his Knights had sat around the Round Table there. He then called on Canon

¹ See, further, an interesting little *Guide to Raglan Castle*, published, with plan and illustrations, by Waugh, Monmouth.



RAGLAN CASTLE FROM INNER COURT.

UNIV.
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WICH.



Thomas to give a *résumé* of the day's proceedings, in the course of which, after a notice of the visit to Caerleon, reference was made to the *Historical Traditions and Facts relating to Newport and Caerleon*, published by Mr. Johns of Newport, as containing, in Part I, besides much information as to the pre-historic and Roman periods a handy account of the contents of the Caerleon Museum. Canon Thomas referred more fully to the "Adam Usk" inscription, and the light which a careful examination of the many local references in *Chronicon Adaë de Usk* would throw on the history of that neighbourhood at the end of the fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth century.

Professor Sayce, speaking with special reference to the Roman remains seen yesterday and to-day, said:—"There are few remains of Roman Britain more interesting than the sites of Caerleon and Caerwent. Not only are the Roman structures which we still find above ground in each place considerable, but the remoteness of the two cities from the eastern coast of the island and the attacks of invaders from Germany, render it likely that their fall must have been delayed for some time after the departure of the Romans from the island. In fact, it does not appear that they were ever destroyed by the Saxons at all. When the Saxon invader at length found his way across the Wye he was already a Christian, and the era of his rage against cities and churches was past. The destroyers of Roman Caerwent and Caerleon cannot have been Saxons or Angles, and we are therefore led to see in them the Irish tribes who may have sailed up the Bristol Channel, or have advanced by land from their settlements in Pembrokeshire. In the pages of Gildas it is the Picts and Scots rather than the Saxons to whom the destruction of Roman civilisation in Britain is due.

"Now there are several reasons which lead us to believe that Caerwent and Caerleon must have continued to exist as Roman cities for a considerable period after their severance from the civilisation of the continent. Bath, Gloucester, and Cirencester, were not destroyed by the kings of Wessex until 557, and Dr. Guest has made it probable that Uriconium did not share the same fate until seven years later. If these cities were still standing at that date, there is no reason for supposing that the Roman cities of Monmouthshire had already perished. Tradition, indeed, makes Caerleon the see of St. Dubritius, the predecessor of St. David, and we know that it was inhabited by Welsh princes at a much later period. If Giraldus is to be trusted, the remains of magnificent Roman buildings were still to be seen there in his own time. We may, therefore, conclude that not only were Caerleon and Caerwent never captured by the Saxons, but that the destruction which their ruins attest did not take place till the sixth or seventh century, and that in the case of Caerleon it was so incomplete as to cause no break in the ecclesiastical history of the city.

"This conclusion is confirmed by an examination of the coins which have been discovered on the two sites. Not only do we find among

them coins of Victor, Arcadius, and Honorius, and Honorius alone, but also minims struck in rude imitation of Constantine's coins, and thus belonging to a time when the British cities of the west were cut off from the mints of the Continent and of London. Where such minims are found we may feel fairly confident that we shall find other remains of that dark period in British history, over which the pages of Gildas alone cast a faint flicker of light, but in which, nevertheless, the foundations were laid of our modern social life as well as of our modern nationalities. A scientifically conducted exploration of the sites of Caerleon and Caerwent becomes, therefore, a matter of high importance to the archaeologist and historian. Systematic excavations may be expected to bring to light numerous objects which will show how Roman civilisation in Britain kept up its long struggle against encroaching barbarism, and finally disappeared. Here, if anywhere, we are likely to find inscriptions, or other monuments, which may help to fill up the blank page in our national history, and possibly throw light on the mysterious personality of King Arthur himself. At all events we cannot fail to obtain some information as to Irish settlements in the west of Britain, and the origin and rise of the modern Welsh people and their language. Caerleon itself must answer the puzzling question of the relation between the Caerleon of the Roman burghers and the Caerleon of the Welsh princes. Even Caerleon, however, is a less promising field for careful and systematic excavation than the site of its sister city Caerwent. The overthrow of Roman Caerwent seems to have been more complete than that of Roman Caerleon, and its site was never built over to the same extent as that of Caerleon. We may, therefore, hope that means may be found for thoroughly exploring it in accordance with the scientific requirements of modern archaeology."

Mr. Stephen W. Williams described the architectural features of Usk church, and by means of indications in the external walls, and the help of a black board, represented it in its original form as a conventional and parish church combined; and then showed the subsequent changes introduced in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The present church he considered to be about as bad a specimen of churchwarden Gothic as he had ever seen. In Caerleon church he had noticed a portion of a Norman arcade, and over it Early English work. From what he had seen there he concluded that Caerleon had participated in the prevailing wealth of the period of Henry VII and Henry VIII, which had been a great age of church building. The general style of the churches corresponded with those of Somersetshire and Devonshire, and from those counties he believed the masons to have come who built the additions made during the Perpendicular period.

Mr. Egerton Phillimore alluded to the different theories broached about the curious inscription in the church at Usk, and the various ineffectual attempts that had been made to decipher and explain it. It was entirely in Welsh, but it was not written, he thought, by a

Welshman, or one acquainted with Welsh idioms, and it had also been engraved by some one who did not know the language he was dealing with. The metre employed was very common, and had prevailed from the time of Dafydd ap Gwilym, in the middle of the fourteenth century.

The President then called upon Mr. R. W. Banks to read his paper—which is printed in the current number of the Journal—on “The Early History of the Land of Gwent”, for which the President expressed to him the thanks of the Association, as being a useful contribution to their county history.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26TH.

The first point this morning was the Castle, to which a small party proceeded, through a downpour of rain, before the more attractive portion of the day's excursion was entered on. As a historical account of the foundation and after fortunes of the Castle, together with a plan and description, has been already given from the pen of Mr. Octavius Morgan, it is not necessary here to do more than mention that the present uses of a brewery have involved much alteration of the interior arrangements, although the main features of the structure are not much altered. The two most important remains are the extensive vaults, which are still used, for the most part, for their original purpose ; and the chapel, which has been sadly desecrated. It is “finely vaulted, very high, and of a cruciform shape ; and at each internal corner is a small, square chamber in the two octagonal turrets, probably serving for sacristy or confessional.”¹

At 10.30 Newport Station was left, and as the train emerged out of the tunnel, some three miles above Chepstow, a lovely view of the windings of the Wye below opened out. On this side were the richly wooded slopes of the Banager Rocks ; on the other rose the famous Wyndcliff. A little further, and we curve round the Plumbers' Cliff, and a singularly beautiful view of Tintern Abbey and its surroundings lay before us.

A walk of a mile and a half from the Station brought us to the site of what has been described, and perhaps not unjustly, as being, “for rich picturesqueness of situation, and extent and beauty of architectural remains, the most attractive Gothic ruin in the world.” It was founded originally in A.D. 1131, by Walter, third son of Richard de Clare, a Norman baron, and cousin-german to the Conqueror ; but the present edifice is of later date, being the new foundation, in A.D. 1239, of Roger de Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, and Marshal of England, to whom the De Clare estates had passed by marriage. The Order to whom it belonged was the Cistercian, and the typical plan of their houses is well shown in its arrangements.

¹ *Suprà*, p. 275.

On entering, through the west door, the members were received by Mr. Loraine Baldwin, the courteous guardian, who had thoughtfully secured for the occasion the services of Mr. Thomas Blashill, F.S.A. Mr. Blashill, who has for many years made the Abbey a loving study, then described its general features, and pointed out in detail, from the evidence of arch, and pier, and masonry, the several stages of its construction, and afterwards conducted us through the several parts of the monastic buildings. As he has promised to contribute an article to our Journal, embodying his latest researches, it is enough to say here that in spite of the heavy downpour, which marred considerably the enjoyableness of the visit, the unbroken attention of the members showed how entirely they entered into the attractions of the place, and how fully they appreciated the benefit of having such a guide to lead them.

The little church of Tintern Parva, prettily situated on the banks of the river, between the Abbey and the Station, has a good groined porch, with a holy water stoup. It consists of nave and chancel, with a vestry on the north side; has lately been restored, and is kept in good order.

At Monmouth the interesting Norman church of St. Thomas, Overmonnow, was described by the Vicar, Mr. Potter, in a paper which we intend to print; and some recent changes were illustrated by contrast with an old picture of the interior, bought at Sir Charles Landseer's sale, and presented to Mr. Potter by Mr. Mew, the architect, who superintended the repairs in 1880.

Passing the base of the old Cross which, according to Speed's Map of Monmouth, formerly stood in the centre of St. Thomas' Square, we crossed the Monnow by the bridge, with its picturesque Toll-Gate, and proceeded to Monmouth. In the Borough Hall Mr. Champney Powell, the Mayor, and Mr. T. R. Oakley, the Town Clerk, exhibited an interesting collection of court-rolls, the maces, seals, and other valuables belonging to the Corporation. It is to be hoped that some good Monmouthian will carefully examine these early records, as they cannot fail to throw much light on the place-names, people, and tenures of which they treat.¹

The parish church of St. Mary's has quite recently (1882) been rebuilt, from the plans of the late Mr. G. E. Street, R.A., with the exception of the tower and spire and part of the west wall. This wall is part of the Norman building, and against it has been built a Decorated tower surmounted by a beautiful spire. The "beautiful church built with three Iles", noticed by Speed, "and at the east end a most curiously built (but now decayed) church called 'the Monkes Church', in the monasterie whereof our great antiquarie Geffry, surnamed Monmouth and Ap Arthur, wrote his Historie of Great Britain", were ruthlessly taken down in 1736 to make way for a Hanoverian edifice, which in its turn, again, was

¹ In illustration of our meaning we would point to *The Town, Fields, and Folk of Wrexham*, by Mr. A. N. Palmer, F.C.S.

removed in 1881. Around the base of the tower, internally, a quantity of encaustic tiles has been inserted for their preservation; some of them heraldic, others inscribed with texts and a date, [M]CCLVII. A portion of the Priory (Benedictine) buildings still survives on the north side of the church; and a handsome oriel window of the fifteenth century is still shown as marking Geoffrey's study.

But little of the Castle remains: only a few walls and skeleton apartments; but among them one that is said to have been the room in which Henry V (thence surnamed "of Monmouth") was born in 1357. The materials were largely used in the building of the Castle House in 1682,—a handsome specimen of the period, with richly ornamented ceilings and good wainscoting; at one time a dower-house of the Beaufort family, but now used as the Armoury and Barracks for the Royal Monmouthshire Engineer Militia. The Rev. W. Bagnall Oakley read here a very interesting paper on Monmouth, which will be printed in the next Number of the Journal.

The evening meeting, at 8.30, was for members only, to decide the place for the Annual Meeting in 1886, and to transact other business relating to the Association.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th.

At 9.30 the members started by train for Caerphilly Castle. Here we were met by the Rev. J. W. Evans, Vicar of St. Melan's, who acted as guide for the occasion, and with the aid of Mr. G. T. Clark's account in "Medieval Military Architecture",¹ and an excellent ground-plan, conducted us over the several parts, in succession, of this beautiful and extensive ruin. The fine hall, the inner court, and the gate-house, are, according to Mr. Clark, finer than anything in Britain. In extent it is second only to Windsor; and in the skill with which it is laid out, and the natural features of the ground turned to advantage, it is second to no mediaeval fortress whatever. There was a good deal of discussion as to the sites of the kitchen and the chapel; but the more skilled opinion agreed in placing the latter at the east of the hall; and the former on its south side, east of the so-called Kitchen Tower. An article on this Castle has been promised for a future issue of the Journal.

At Bassaleg, on the return journey, an inspection was made of the parish church, which contains many monuments to the Morgans of Tredegar, but has little of antiquarian interest. In the *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1859, p. 234, regret was expressed at the destruction of a small isolated chapel of Perpendicular architecture that stood in the churchyard, and had been used as a school. The

¹ This article first appeared in the *West of England Journal*, 1835-36, and subsequently in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1850, New Series, vol. i, p. 250.

name is apparently equivalent to *Maes-Aleg Campus Allecti*; just as we have Bach and Mach, Bathafarn and Mathafarn, as local variations of the same words. A misapprehension of this fact has probably led to the dedication of the church being assigned to St. Basil. Coxe tells us that "according to Tanner, Bassaleg was formerly a Benedictine priory of Black Monks, a cell of the Abbey of Glastonbury, to which the church was given by Robert de Haye and Gundreda, his wife, between 1101 and 1120." No remains of the ancient priory exist; but there is a ruined building in the forest called "*Coed y Monachty*", which appears to have been connected with it.

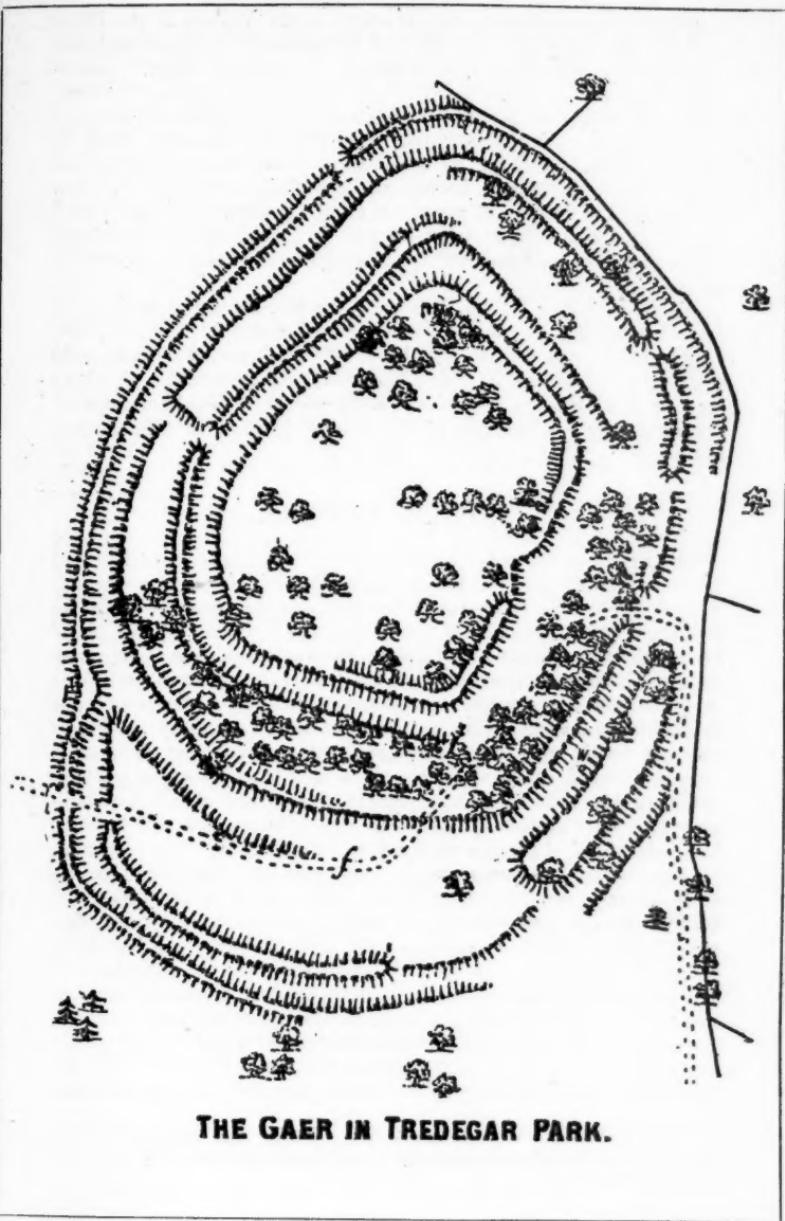
A pleasant walk from the church brought us to Tredegar Park, where the Association was most hospitably received by the President. The house is said to have been designed by Inigo Jones, but was not completed until 1672; but the great hall is a portion of the earlier "very fair place of stone" mentioned by Leland, and is probably five hundred years old.

Canon Thomas, in thanking Lord Tredegar for his genial hospitality, took occasion to remark that whatever changes may have passed over Tredegar itself during the interval, their host admirably represented, in this respect at least, the character of his ancestor, Sir John Morgan of Tredegar, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, whom Gwilym Tew described, c. A.D. 1460, as

"Morgan, gwin llydan Gwaun llwg."
(Morgan, the Vine of broad Wentloog.)¹

Crossing the railway to the other side of the extensive park, we visited the strongly fortified camp called "The Gaer", of which we give a plan, reproduced from the 25-inch Ordnance Map. It stands on high ground which slopes sharply on the west, but on all other sides is easy of access. It commands an extensive view seaward over the mouth of the Usk and Wentlwch level, suggesting that it was so placed by its constructors as to give the earliest notice of any invasion of marauders on the coast. The fine oak-trees which stand around it, and the name, "*Coed y defaid*", on the Ordnance Survey, of the ground on which it was constructed, lead to the notion that it stood in the midst of a primæval forest as a residence and place of defence, sheltered from wind and weather, and difficult of approach, and well answered Cæsar's description of a British *oppidum*. The inner space, an irregular parallelogram, is defended by three lines of foss and dyke; that on the north and most accessible side being the most formidable, with an extra line thrown out along the south. The entrances are skilfully curtained by the inner lines of defence, so that an enemy passing through the first would be subject to the arrows and other weapons of the defenders for a considerable distance before reaching an inner opening. The position was one of much strategic value, as it served to guard the

¹ *Arch. Camb.*, Series V, vol. i, p. 40. -



THE GAER IN TREDEGAR PARK.

approach from Caerleon and Newport, to the Valleys of the Ebbw and the Rhymney and the land of Morganwg. Its date and constructors are points not easy to settle. The name "Gaer" (*castra*) looks Roman; but it is too strongly fortified for such a position, having no water-supply, and is not sufficiently regular in its form, to owe its origin to the Romans. In a district, however, which for its own wealth, and for its openings into the inner country, has from earliest times been keenly contested and firmly held (as witnessed by the number of camps on all the surrounding hills), such a position as the Gaer would be sure to be coveted by every successive invader, and each occupant would in turn add some little to its means of defence.

At St. Woollos' Church, Newport (the last but by no means the least interesting object for inspection during the Meeting), Mr. Davis read a paper, written in 1854, by Mr. Octavius Morgan, who afterwards described in detail the chief points touched upon, as well as some results of the late restoration. These have been incorporated in his account of the church printed in this current Number.

EVENING MEETING.

The President having taken the chair, called upon the Chairman of Committee to give the *résumé* of the last two days' excursions.

In doing so Canon Thomas announced, as the result of their last evening's consultation, that the Committee had fixed upon Chester for the Annual Meeting in 1886.¹ He was afraid that many persons on joining their excursions for the first time, and seeing, as they had on the present occasion, a beautiful country with most interesting remains of Roman and mediæval antiquity, in lovely weather (with only one exception), and under most favourable auspices, would carry away the idea that our Meetings partook rather of the nature of an enjoyable picnic than of the investigations of a learned Society. He was glad to think that this Meeting had been to all of them a very enjoyable one; but if the surroundings had been less favourable, he was quite sure that this Meeting at Newport would have been, in any case, full of interest to them, for they would have gone about their own work resolutely for that work's sake; and one result of their annual gatherings was to be seen in the information gathered into their annual volumes as a consequence of their visits. This time, indeed, they had been unusually fortunate in having able guides to point out and illustrate the places they had seen; and many promised papers would perpetuate, in the pages of their Journal, the fruits of this week's reunion. At the beginning of the week they had expressed their

¹ This decision has since been altered, on finding that the Royal Archæological Institute have also selected Chester, and Swansea has been substituted in its stead.

gratification at being so cordially welcomed by the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association, and they had now to give expression to their great obligations to some of its leading members for the part they had taken in describing the history and antiquities of the county. He then gave a short *r  sum  * of the two days' proceedings; and speaking of Caerphilly, he hoped that their experience there would give encouragement to some able but too diffident members to put their thoughts on paper; for the description of that Castle by Mr. G. T. Clark, which had been so helpful to them, was the matured result of a paper first printed by him exactly fifty years ago. Archaeological knowledge, it must be remembered, like all other knowledge, *viam acquirit eundo*; but it must first have a start. The long and valued services of another of their honoured Vice-Presidents, Mr. Octavius Morgan, and his personal presence among them at this their closing meeting, showed how attractive the study of antiquity proved to be, and that instead of cramping their sympathies it enabled them to take an enlarged and correcter estimate of times and places by giving to each age and movement something of their fair share of weight and influence.

The President then proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation for the use of their new Town Hall. While the handsome appearance and convenient arrangement of the building bore witness to the energy and prosperous commerce of their town, their courtesy in so readily placing those rooms at the service of the Association over which he had the honour to preside, showed that they were not unmindful of their debt to the past, and he ventured to hope that their Meeting at Newport would not pass away without producing some influence of permanent value.

Canon Thomas, in seconding the vote, referred to the venerable relic of which Churchyard had written some three hundred years ago, as in past days—

“The castle hard towin,
Which yet shows fair”;

and hoped that if ever the Mayor and Corporation should have the opportunity, they would secure its possession for the town; otherwise there would be danger here also of what he had said of another castle in the neighbourhood, that—

“Sith it weares and walls so wastes away,
In praise thereof I mynd not much to say :
Each thing decayed goes quickly out of mind”;

a contingency which it was one object of their Association to prevent.

The Mayor, Col. Lyne, suitably acknowledged the vote, and thought it was a great advantage that the vast number of people who had visited their new Town Hall during the week had also had

the privilege of inspecting the rare curiosities brought together in the local museum.¹

Mr. R. W. Banks proposed the thanks of the Association to the Local Committee, especially Major Lawson Lowe, and their Local Secretary, Mr. T. D. Roberts. Seldom had they enjoyed a more pleasant and successful week, and that was owing to the excellent arrangements made by the Committee, not only for seeing the places of antiquarian and historical interest, but also for finding some one on the spot to explain and illustrate them. And in this they had been throughout unusually successful, and more particularly so at Caerwent, Sudbrook, St. Pierre, Chepstow, and Monmouth.

Mr. Laws seconded the proposal the more heartily because Mr. Roberts had, by his great readiness, relieved him of a somewhat troublesome portion of his duties as a General Secretary.

Professor Sayce proposed a vote of thanks to the readers of papers, especially to Mr. Octavius Morgan, Mr. Mitchell, Dr. Woollett and the Rev. W. B. Oakley. He was glad to renew an old acquaintance with the county of Monmouth, and to do so after a long interval under such favourable conditions. We were told by an old author that—

*"Segnius irritant animos demissa per aures
Quam que sunt oculis subiecta fidelibus et que
Ipse sibi tradit spectator";*

but on the present occasion they had been able to combine both through the help of the valuable papers read. He then spoke of the great historical importance of the finds at Caerleon and Caerwent, and the desirability of a careful supervision of any future exploration at either of those places. The vote was seconded by Mr. Hartland.

Mr. R. H. Wood, F.S.A., in proposing a vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had sent contributions to the temporary museum, and to the curators, to whom they were so much indebted, drew attention to some of the objects before them, and which had been seen by the many thousands who had passed through the new Town Hall during the week. He remarked that it was rarely the good fortune of the Society to have at their Annual Meetings a museum containing so many things of interest and value. There were a number of locks of curious and intricate workmanship, and a clock deserving close examination. There was such a collection of silver spoons, as few of them ever saw brought together,—the series extended over a period of 300 years, from 1500 to 1800,—and one longed to examine the assay mark at the early period to which some of them dated back. Of course these and other rare exhibits were from the collection of their old member and good friend, Mr. Octavius Morgan, who had been a collector for very many years, and knew well what he was collecting. Then there was a "Brank",

¹ We are glad to know that one result of this exhibition is the great probability of a permanent museum being established in the town.

used in former times as a punishment for scolds, and which, happily, along with that other relic of barbarism, the "Ducking Stool", has long since been abolished. Next we come to a display of implements for producing light: first the tinder-box, with flint and steel; then the tinder-pistol, followed by an improvement in the addition of a rest, so that the pistol would stand without support, and a socket to hold a taper, which made it complete. The wonderful discovery of the lucifer match of course puts all these out of court; he would, however, mention that between the flint and steel and the lucifer match there intervened the phosphorus box. A small tin box containing prepared matches and a bottle of phosphorus, into which the match was dipped. He himself had all these in his collection, with the exception of the phosphorus box, which he had never been able to obtain, and he hoped if anyone present happened to have one he would present it to this Collection, which was so nearly complete. There were a number of rare early-printed books and some most interesting MSS., but above all in interest to them was the original charter to the ancient town of Newport, with the seal in almost perfect state, presented by Mr. Octavius Morgan.

Mr. Stephen W. Williams, in seconding the motion, drew attention to the crucifix, which had been discovered in Kemeys Inferior Church, and spoke of the character of the workmanship of the wood-carvers of that period.

Mr. James Davies proposed a vote of thanks to the entertainers and those who had opened places of interest to the Association, especially to Col. Lyne and Mr. Loraine Baldwyn; and this was seconded by Mr. E. G. B. Phillimore.

LOCAL MUSEUM.

PRIMITIVE REMAINS.

SPECIMENS from Swiss lake-dwellings,—sixteen frames of cloth, three spindle-whorls, two cards of flints, one of hair-pins, one of fish-hooks, four boxes of sundries (burnt), three horn implements, two flints, and six bone pieces or awls

J. E. Lee, F.S.A.

ROMAN.

Cinders containing evidence of the use of coal by the Romans in smelting iron

Coal found under tessellated pavement at Caerwent J. Storrie.

Coins (two hundred and thirty-two) found under a stone at Woolaston

Coins (three hundred and forty-two) found at Caerwent

Silver ring found at Caerwent

J. Till.

Fragment of *mortarium*

T. M. Llewellyn, Caerleon.

Two Roman coins (Hadrian and Licinius) as pendants	E. Southwood Jones.
Bronze votive figure of goat	T. M. Llewellyn.
Roman lamp with three wicks	R. H. Mansel, Caerleon.
Roman lamp	
Roman lamp with ornaments in relief	
Roman tile stamped LEG. II. AVG.	
Three fragments of Samian ware	R. H. Mansel, Caerleon.
Eight fragments of Roman pottery found at Caerleon	W. N. Johns, Newport.
Tessera of Roman pavement from Caerleon	
Roman jar, Samian ware	
Bronze goat	
Coins as pendants, from Caerleon	C. Miles.
Coins, seal, spoon, found at Caerleon	W. Downing Evans.
Portion of Roman brick, Augustan Legion	
Coins, A.D. 218-290	
Tusks of wild boar found at Caerleon	Dr. Woollett.

MEDIEVAL ART.

Crucifix found with two hundred skulls at the church of Kemeyns	
Inferior	H. C. Risley.
Jewel casket, fourteenth century	
Wrought iron dagger, 1615	
Travelling watch or clock, 1510	
Locks and keys from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century	
Chinese enamel dish, 1426	
Ditto, centuries old; supposed to have been looted	
Brazen pail, 1500, and candlestick to match; very rare Oriental work	
Chinese vase, 1450	Octavius Morgan, Newport.
Three steel keys (cabinets), seventeenth century	
Two double keys with sliding bars, city of Nuremberg	
Steel gilt key, Francis I and Maria Theresa	
Ditto, Charles VI, Emperor of Germany	
Steel chamberlain's key of office of one of the German principalities	
Steel ecclesiastical key with latch-key and sliding bar	
Steel key, seventeenth century	Lent by O. Morgan.

POST-MEDIEVAL.

Knife and fork in leather case, temp. Charles II	
Knife and fork (lady's), and contemporary gentleman's fork, in leather case, temp. James I	

Series of twenty-six silver and base metal spoons, to illustrate changes of form and fashion from 1500 to 1800
 Tomarion, or pitch-pipe, from Morwenstowe, Cornwall, formerly belonging to R. S. Hawker, the poet
 Four tinder-boxes of various forms, for obtaining a light by means of flint and steel, from 1753 to 1820
 Smuggler's flask from an old farmhouse near Tintagel, Cornwall
 Iron mask used at State executions
 Martel or battle-mace
 Brank, or scold's bridle, *temp. William III*
 Series of six pairs of shoe and knee-buckles, showing their changes from early fashion to 1800

R. Drane.

Ancient curfew (cover-fire)
 Bronze bushel of the manor of Darfud
 Milton shield, repoussé work
 Three toilet-boxes, once the property of Lady Byron, mother of the celebrated poet
 Splendid silver copy of Beaufort Cup won by "Ely" at Bath, and presented by the late W. S. Cartwright to the Hon. Godfrey Morgan, in commemoration of his gallantry in the charge of Balaklava, 25th of October 1854
 Pair of blunderbusses and shield
 Massive silver cup, "the gift of my good friend General Phillips"
 Medallion of Sir Charles Morgan, painted by Pliuner
 Official seal of John Morgan, Esq., Tredegar, Lord-Lieutenant of Monmouth and Brecon, 1715 to 1719

Lord Tredegar.

Silver punch-ladle with inlaid metal
 Roman coins
 Master-key of Windsor Castle
 Carving of the Saviour
 Carved Indian club
 Two framed casts of Elgin marbles

Rev. W. C. Bruce.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Algerian dagger
 Thibet praying-wheel
 Part of old dessert-service (Flight and Barr, Worcester)
 Two silver patch-boxes, silver purse, silver-gilt chatelaine,—all very old
 Drinking-jug, 1652
 Two large wrought iron cannon of the latter part of the fifteenth century, found off St. Ives (in office, Austin Friars)

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Llanfrechfa.

Captain Gurney.

F. J. Mitchell.

Descent of the myth of the Virgin Mother and Divine Child, illustrated by (1) ancient Egyptian bronze of Isis, the Moon, nursing the infant Horus, the Dawn

(2.) Indian porcelain figure of Maia, with the infant Buddha, seated on the rock of salvation, and having the bottle of the water of life at her right hand

(3.) Japanese saucer of Satsuma ware with the immaculate Mother, Divine Child, bottle of the water of life with the symbolic fish in it, and that old serpent the spirit of evil behind her

(4.) Ivory figure of the Christian Virgin, Divine Child, and the serpent as tempter (as in the last)

Silver hilted dress rapier

Dress rapier, with Damascened blade and carved steel hilt R. Drane, Cardiff

Pair of horns, believed to be the largest extant

Bow and poisoned arrows from Solomon Islands, South Seas S. Dean.

Tray of coins—Eighteenth century tokens of Gloucestershire, Welsh, Irish, Manx, Channel Islands, and Colonial coins (sixty-three in all)

Specimens of Early English copper coins, with Colonial pennies E. Southwood Jones.

South Wales tokens (eighteen) J. Storrie.

Eight coins T. M. Llewellyn.

Medals (one hundred and seventy-eight bronze and brass, twenty-two silver, one gilded) J. Hutchins, Newport.

Case of impressions of seals J. E. Lee.

Inscribed stone 1632, from wall Newport Castle 1874 C. Kirby.

Five cases of gold, silver, and bronze coins and medals

Curious engraved box (probably Scandinavian) of the Crucifixion R. D. Bain.

MSS.—OLD BOOKS AND DRAWINGS.

Illuminated MSS., History of Strasbourg from the Flood till 1330
 Lord Tredegar.
 Ancient Welsh and English Bible and forty sermons of 1497 from
 a Royal Library W. W. Morgan.
 Black letter book, 1523 (from the Sunderland Library); folio Bible;
 4to. Bible, sixteenth century W. N. Johns.
 Loan of books,—Newport Free Library, Brig Evans, P. J. Mitchell,
 T. M. Lockwood, E. A. Lansdowne, C. Kirby, W. N. Johns,
 W. W. Morgan, etc.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Old map, Monmouthshire C. Octavius S. Morgan.
Framed engravings, Monmouthshire and Welsh Castles Rev. W. Rees and Dr. Woollett.
View of the Van, near Caerphilly T. M. Llewelin.
Two framed photographs of river Usk, before and after removal of Trostrey Weir by Conservators The Mayor of Newport.

Welsh harp and several engravings	Lady Llanover.
Twenty-one water colours and sketches, three rubbings Usk church, etc.	T. H. Thomas.
Ten photographs, Cardiff Castle	T. M. Lockwood.
Two portfolio etchings, views of Wales	J. Hewitt.
Water-colour drawings, Caerphilly, Tintern, Chepstow, etc.	J. F. Mullock.
Drawing, window, Raglan Castle	B. Lawrence.
[Cannon ball, two keys, and fragment of grate, 1678, from Leaguers Field, Raglan]	J. Murphy.]

NEWPORT.

Oldest charter of Newport in existence (recently presented by O. Morgan, Esq., F.R.S., to the Corporation)	The Corporation.
Ancient map of Newport (about 1750)	Lord Tredegar.
Old map of Newport, 1794	Corporation of Newport.
Two silver maces	E. A. Lansdowne
[Bullets from wall of Old Westgate	
Bullet and seal found at Gorelands.	
Six silver and bronze coins	J. E. Brewer.]
Stand with ten Chartist pikes, formerly in collection of S. Homfray, Esq.	S. Dean.
Pictures of Chartist Riots (J. Frost, Firman, and others, Sir Thomas Phillips, Lieut. Gray, etc.). Lent by A. A. Newman, Rev. W. Rees, Dr. Woollett, and C. Kirby	
View of New Westgate Hotel, with measured drawings and photographs of steps and ancient arches, etc., discovered in 1884	E. A. Lansdowne.

SUBSCRIBERS TO LOCAL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Right Hon. Lord Tredegar, President	. 10	0	0
Octavius Morgan, Esq., The Friars	. 5	0	0
The Hon. Arthur Morgan	. 3	3	0
J. E. Lee, Esq.	. 2	2	0
F. J. Mitchell, Esq.	. 2	2	0
D. Whitehouse, Esq.	. 2	2	0
E. H. Carbutt, Esq., M.P.	. 2	2	0
F. Rafarel, Esq.	. 2	2	0
Sir H. M. Jackson, Bart.	. 2	2	0
A. E. Lee, Esq.	. 1	1	0
T. H. Thomas, Esq.	. 1	1	0
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Rev. W. B. Oakley	. 1	1	0
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Rev. W. J. C. Lindsay	. 1	1	0
Rev. F. B. Leonard	. 1	1	0
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A. C. Pilliner, Esq.	1	1	0
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J. W. Jones, Esq.	1	1	0
G. W. Wilkinson, Esq.	1	1	0
Rev. Canon Hawkins	1	1	0
R. D. Bain, Esq.	1	1	0
J. A. Rolls, Esq., M.P.	1	1	0
The Mayor of Newport	1	1	0
Sir George Walker, Bart.	0	10	0
G. L. Hiley, Esq.	0	10	0
W. N. Johns, Esq.	0	5	0
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Rev. A. Wilkins	0	5	0
Rev. R. V. Hughes	0	5	0
Mrs. Micklithwaite	0	5	0
Mr. Dent	0	5	0
Miss Buckingham	0	5	0
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Rev. H. B. Roderick	0	5	0
A. G. Thomas, Esq., M.D.	0	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£69 19 0		

NEWPORT MEETING, AUGUST 1885.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To amount of subscriptions	69	19	0	W. N. Johns, printing, etc	6	2	0
Sale of tickets of admission to meetings	2	10	0	Mallock and Sons, ditto	2	17	9
	<hr/>			E. Stanford, lithographing maps	2	17	9
	<hr/>			C. Kirby, expenses	5	2	11
	<hr/>			T. D. Roberts, ditto	4	9	6
	<hr/>			Postages, telegrams, carriage of parcels, etc	12	6	0
	<hr/>			Cheque-book	0	1	0
Received by Treasurer of Association	38	12	1	Balance	38	12	1
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
Examined and found correct.					£72	9	0

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